

THE TIMES



Policewoman's killer goes free at end of St James's siege

Gaddafi calls off 'hit squads' for fear of sanctions

● Action by Libyan "hit squads" in Europe has been suspended after the siege at the People's Bureau in London
● The funeral service at Salisbury Cathedral for Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher was attended by 600 Metropolitan police officers

● Mr Oliver Miles, Britain's Ambassador to Libya, flew out with staff members after a two hour airport wait. Back page

● The police may be allowed to search diplomatic bags for guns and explosives in defiance of the Vienna Convention. Page 2

By John Witherow and Stewart Tandler

Libya is understood to have ordered its so-called "hit squads" in Europe to suspend action against exiles after the siege at the Libyan People's Bureau in London ended yesterday with the killer of Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher walking free.

A Libyan diplomat at an overseas bureau said instructions were sent from Tripoli on Thursday ordering all action against Colonel Gaddafi's opponents to stop until further notice.

At the same time senior diplomatic staff from the bureau are being recalled to Tripoli for consultations. The talks are understood to involve mapping out a strategy to lessen the adverse publicity that Libya has received during the 11-day siege at James's Square.

A Libyan source in London said Colonel Gaddafi was alarmed at the possibility of European Economic Community sanctions against Libya, if any other attacks took place and wished to counterbalance what he called "British propaganda".

The source said he expected the suspension of action might last a few months until the international concern over the shooting has subsided.

The siege, which started with a hail of automatic gunfire on April 17, ended quietly yesterday when 30 Libyans men emerged into bright sunshine only hours before the funeral service for WPC Fletcher at Salisbury Cathedral.

One of the Libyan diplomats who has acted as an intermediary throughout the siege escorted them out in groups of five at 15-minute intervals. They walked out in single file without glancing at the spot where WPC Fletcher was shot together with 11 anti-Gaddafi demonstrators.

The operation was watched in an atmosphere of tension by police marksmen and three observers from the Saudi, Turkish and Syrian embassies. The Libyans were taken into a side street and checked for weapons or explosives. They were then placed in dark green police vans with darkened windows.

At 11.30am a convoy of 26 vehicles, including eight motor cycle outriders, and accompanied by members of the Special Branch and Anti-Terrorist Squad, pulled out into Jermyn Street and headed west towards the Civil Service Staff College at Sunningdale, a dozen miles from Heathrow airport.

Almost a hundred officers, many armed, were in the convoy while a police helicopter followed them overhead. Each of the seven vans carrying the Libyans included a policeman wearing a flak jacket sitting beside the driver.

At Sunningdale, which was constantly circled by the helicopter, immigration and customs officials checked the Libyans' passports and other documents. The men were also

"invited to contribute any knowledge that they have concerning the shooting of WPC Fletcher".

The gunman's identity is understood to have been sent to Tripoli after the shooting. One intelligence source said that if the message was properly coded British intelligence, despite the monitoring services of GCHQ and the National Security Agency in the United States, might still not know the name.

The Libyans spent seven hours at Sunningdale before being escorted to Heathrow. Meanwhile, four large white bags and other luggage, including a plastic carrier bag, were removed from the bureau and taken to Heathrow to be placed on a flight to Tripoli.

While a lone Libyan diplomat took charge of the bureau, police entered the square searching for forensic science evidence of the shooting.

The man, Mohamed El-Madhuhi, an accredited diplomat who was not at the embassy at the time of the shooting, will be one of two with limited diplomatic immunity forming a Libyan interest section at the Saudi Arabian embassy, now acting for Libya. Britain has a reciprocal arrangement in Tripoli at the Italian embassy.

The police cannot enter the bureau until after midnight tomorrow but have said they will search the building accompanied by observers from the Saudi, Syrian and Turkish embassies.

It is thought that any weapons or explosives are likely to have been removed in diplomatic bags. Diplomatic rules, page 8

Cabinet was warned of violence

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

Cabinet Ministers were told more than a month ago that a Libyan machine gun squad had been let loose to kill anti-Gaddafi dissidents in Britain.

With the safe return of British diplomats from Tripoli, MPs will demand the fullest possible answers on the handling of intelligence before the shooting of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher on April 17.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, guardedly told the Commons this week: "It is not the practice to give details of intelligence matters... I will say, however, that no specific information that would lead us to believe that such an incident would occur when it did was in our hands before the event."

The first intelligence warning, thought to have come from a communications "intercept" was taken so seriously that both the Foreign Office and Scotland Yard issued a public statement.

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Jobless fall helps shares to record

By Our City Staff

Share prices on the Stock Exchange rose to a record yesterday as investors expressed renewed optimism about the economy.

This was reinforced official statistics showing the first fall in unemployment for five months. Total unemployment dropped by 35,000 in April to 3,107,682. The seasonally-adjusted adult total, which is a better guide to

trends, fell by 500 - the first April decline for five years.

Nearly £1,000m was added to the value of companies quoted on the stock market as the FT 30-Share Index closed the three-week account 8.9 up at 908.0, a rise of 32.6 on the account. The previous best of 901.4 was set on March 21. The FT All-Share Index - which gives a more accurate indication of the

market's performance - also hit a record with a rise of 2.65 to 534.83.

The Government also decided to use the wave of confidence as an opportunity to raise new funds. The Bank of England announced a new £1bn tap of Treasury 9½ per cent 1989.

Jobless fall, page 21
Market report, page 22

Israeli inquiry into bus hijackers' deaths

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

Faced with mounting concern about the mystery surrounding the deaths of two Arabs who were killed after hijacking an Israeli bus two weeks ago, Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister, has agreed to appoint a committee of inquiry headed by a retired general.

The committee will have far less scope or power than the three-member inquiry commission set up by the Cabinet to investigate the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in west Beirut and will be an internal Defence Ministry affair whose results will be published only after scrutiny by Mr Arens. It will be chaired by Reserve General Meir Zorea,

former Comptroller-General of the defence establishment.

The unannounced decision on Thursday to launch the investigation comes after serious doubts were raised by the existence of a number of photographs showing two of the four young hijackers being led away from the crippled bus. The photographs prompted speculation that one or both might later have been executed by the security forces.

The concern was reinforced by remarks made by Mr Arens in a television interview broadcast soon after the hijacking in which he declared: "Whoever plans terrorist acts in Israel must know that he will not get out alive".

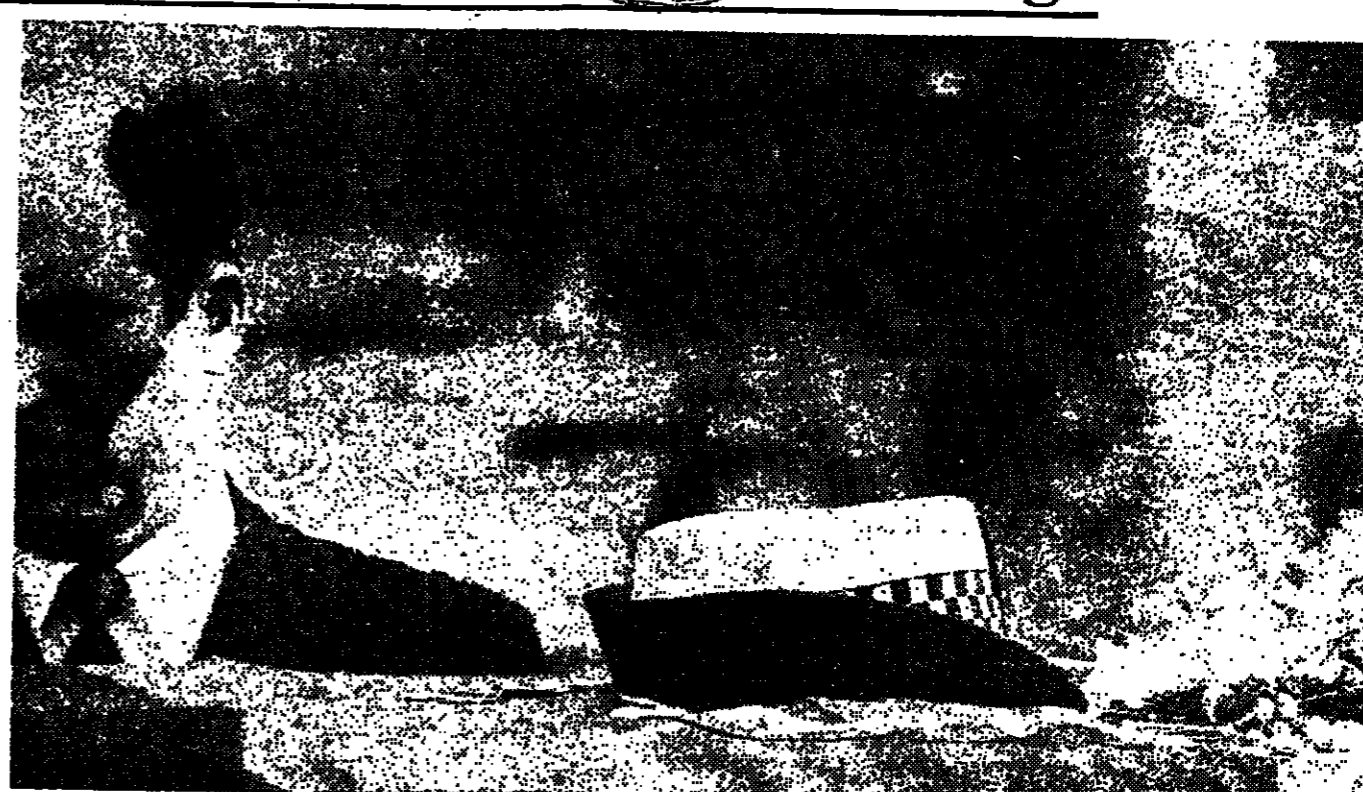
This was interpreted in some political circles as indicating a



Mr Moshe Arens: Climb-down over inquiry.

change in Israel's traditional policy of not executing captured terrorists.

Some of the strictest military



Symbols of tragedy: WPC Fletcher's cap adorns the coffin; tears from Miss Sarah Fletcher with her sister Heather and (below) a wreath from Bow Street colleagues.

Fond farewell to Super Fletch, a diamond of a girl

From Michael Horsnell, Salisbury

More than 600 Metropolitan Police officers paid their last respects to London Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher yesterday at a funeral service which overwhelmed Salisbury Cathedral with a mixture of outrage and helplessness.

It was ten days after the girl - known as Super Fletch to her colleagues - was mown down in a burst of automatic gunfire. Those who made the journey to her family home in the West Country knew that their colleagues in London were being forced to surrender her murderer to the safe haven of diplomatic immunity and a flight to Tripoli.

In his address to the packed rows of mourners Chief Sup Bryan West, head of Bow Street police station where Miss Fletcher served, said: "The sense of outrage, the feeling of the meaninglessness of this tragic incident, the whole bundle of emotions which we feel and express in our own ways, all these things are still with us; but the positive nature of Yvonne's attitude to life thrusts itself into our consciousness even at this early stage of grief for a death so sudden and unexpected... she was truly a diamond of a girl."

The service at the thirteenth century cathedral near Miss Fletcher's home village of Semley was attended by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, Sir Lawrence Byford, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police.

But all eyes were on Miss Fletcher's family, Tim and Queenie Fletcher, and their daughters Heather, aged 22, Sarah, aged 17 and Debbie, aged 12, as well as on her fiancé, PC Michael Liddle, who dashed helplessly to her side that bloody day last week.

As the congregation filed through the north gate of the cathedral behind a coffin decked with the blue Metropolitan police flag and a white wreath of lilies, chrysanthemums and carnations, the family held on to their tears and each other.

At the back of the coffin rested the policewoman's hat, which had lain where she had fallen for ten days until a courageous colleague rescued it from the inferno square outside the Libyan People's Bureau in the early hours of yesterday.

The hat was specially taken to the funeral by her colleagues - a mark of their esteem for the tiniest WPC in the police force. Nearly all 300 officers from Bow Street attended the funeral swelling to more than 1,400 the congregation which included villagers, schoolfriends and others who remembered Miss Fletcher as an affectionate, vivacious girl and woman.

The coffin was borne by six constables who were among those with Miss Fletcher on 'A' relief at Bow Street: John Murray, Robert Trowbridge, Andrew Beck, Martin Thornton, John Parker and Paul Carter.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Pressure mounts to widen pit strike

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Further steps to spread the pitmen's "rolling strike" were set in motion by leaders of traditionally moderate Lancashire miners yesterday and pressure to join the seven-week stoppage intensified in Nottinghamshire.

But the National Coal Board reported that 52 pits were still mining coal, most of them at normal levels. Overall output is taken by about 500,000 tonnes a week, or 25 per cent of pre-strike production.

In Lancashire, nearly 200 delegates from coalfield branches of the National Union of Mineworkers effectively abandoned their decision to continue working until a national ballot is held, and voted overwhelmingly to seek a strike mandate from the several individual pits.

Mr Sidney Vincent, area secretary of the union, said the call for a ballot was dead. "We lost that battle. I honestly believe the feeling is now that those other people on strike are fighting our battles."

Militant miners from Sutton Manor and Bold collieries on Merseyside, who were angry that there had not been an immediate strike vote, staged a

sit-in in the hall of the union offices in Bolton. They said that they would stay there all weekend until the delegate conference reconvenes on Monday to consider the outcome of branch votes on joining the strike, which involves four miners in five.

While the Lancashire pitmen were debating whether to join the industrial action Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, urged the strikers to "raise the whole tempo" of their campaign against pit closures.

Rallies to persuade the moderate miners of Nottinghamshire to strike are to be held over the next few days and a coal board announcement that one job in 10 in the south of the county will go in the next year could act as a recruiting sergeant for the strike.

The dispute is also hardening north of the border. Scottish miners decided that they would only allow one trainload of coal into the Ravenscraig steelworks near Motherwell.

Islington Council in north London plans to join the borough with a coal pit in Kent as a gesture of solidarity with the miners.

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Shouldn't WPA be the company policy?

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...match
David Hands previews the John Player rugby cup final at Twickenham, and talks to Mike Rafter, the captain of Bristol, the holders

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Britons held over fake £50 notes

Four Britons were detained in Calais after trying to exchange counterfeit £50 notes for francs. French police said that over Easter the four attempted to change counterfeit notes in two separate banks and police discovered a wad of 100 fake notes in a car belonging to two British tourists.

Vacant pews

Three out of four children of 13 who attend Anglican churches regularly will have stopped before reaching 20, a survey on teenagers and religion says

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Diary of death

A librarian who committed suicide after shooting his wife, daughter and mother, left a diary explaining his fears that they might suffer in a nuclear war

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Steel plea

The Commons, Trade and Industry Select Committee has demanded an end to cuts in Britain's steel-making capacity until other European countries streamline their industries

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Bulow retrial

Claus von Bulow, sentenced to 30 years' jail two years ago for attempting to murder his heiress wife, Sunny, has won his fight for a new trial.

CIA sorry

The CIA chief, Mr William Casey, apologized to United States senators for not keeping them better informed over the agency's covert role in the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

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Solidarity hope

Eleven Solidarity leaders accused of trying to overthrow the state have been holding secret talks with the Polish authorities concerning possible release from prison

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Cutting costs

As the housebuying season reaches its peak, Family Money advises that it pays to shop around for professional help from solicitors and surveyors

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Miss Opie fined

Lisa Opie, the British squash player, has been fined a record £1,000 and banned from next season's British Open after misbehaving at this year's final

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Manager goes

Graham Hawkins has been dismissed as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, already relegated to the second division. Meanwhile, Don Howe is almost certain to be appointed the Arsenal manager today

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Letters: On nurses' accommodation, from Mrs P Spencer, and others; civil liberties, from Mr M Ennals; cricket, from Sir E Ford.
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Anglican churches 'lose 75% of congregation before they reach 20'

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Three out of four children aged 13 who regularly attend Church of England services will have stopped going to church by the time they are 20, according to a church survey on teenagers and religion.

Dr Leslie Francis, a social psychologist and clergyman, analysed the age structure of a sample of nearly 2,000 teenagers in church one Sunday in six districts of Lancashire. In all denominations, but most strikingly in the Church of England, he found a steady decline year by year.

He concluded that about half the teenagers attending Free Church or Roman Catholic services would have dropped out before reaching 20, and about three-quarters of the Anglicans.

He found that the Free Churches had the least number of teenagers overall, and the Catholic Church the most.

Dr Francis also found less evidence of religious commitment among Anglican teenagers. One in five is not sure about the existence of God, and

one in three is not sure about the Resurrection. On both counts the Catholic teenagers scored highest, with the Free Church group next. Dr Francis concluded that many teenagers attend Anglican churches for a time, with an open mind, looking for something.

While the Free Church group was the most religiously conservative, the Anglicans were most conservative in secular politics, and also the most likely to be racially prejudiced.

Among Catholic teenagers there was a marked bias towards the Labour Party, but that group was also the one with the largest proportion of working class members.

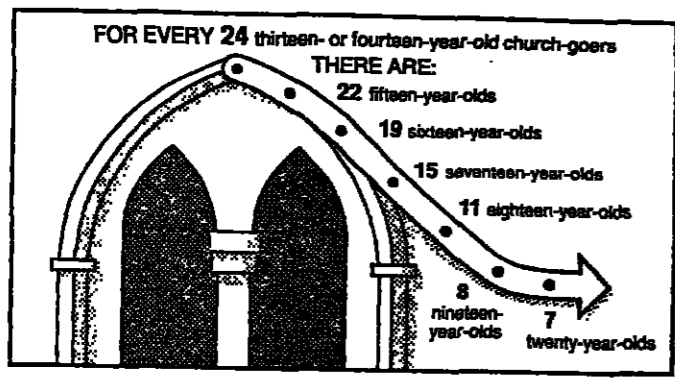
The report was commissioned by the youth unit of the British Council of Churches, and is being published in book form by Collins next week. Dr Francis, who ends his report with questions for further study rather than with his own conclusions and recommendations, is research officer at the Culham College Institute for Church Related Education.

| SURVEY OF BELIEFS | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| | Anglican | Free Church | Roman Catholic |
| (Figures in percentages) | | | |
| Belief in God | 81 | 87 | 79 |
| Jesus the Son of God | 81 | 87 | 79 |
| Resurrection | 85 | 81 | 87 |
| Life after death | 84 | 81 | 83 |
| God "inside the world in six days" | 55 | 48 | 36 |
| Christianity "only true religion" | 48 | 54 | 37 |
| Reincarnation | 20 | 18 | 25 |
| Contraception | 15 | 7 | 4 |
| Sex outside marriage | 32 | 55 | 28 |
| Abortion wrong | 74 | 48 | 49 |

He writes in the introduction: "The general absence of teenagers from the churches makes those who are church attenders of great interest and importance to the churches... Why do they keep going?"

A high proportion of all teenagers in all denominations expressed some dissatisfaction with church services, often saying the sermons were unhelpful, the service itself lacked "life" and was boring, but very many were still prepared to consider it relevant to their lives.

Only 15 per cent of Catholic teenagers regarded contraception as wrong, but 74 per cent opposed abortion. Only 28 per cent of Anglican teenagers thought sex outside marriage was wrong, compared with 55 per cent of Free Church teenagers, who also strongly disapproved of drink, drugs, and minor law-breaking (of which the Catholics were most tolerant).



Drugs cases top 250 in Services

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

More than 250 cases of drug abuse, some involving trafficking, were investigated in the armed forces last year, a minister has revealed in a letter to a Labour MP.

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for Armed Forces, told Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, that 168 drug-related offences were investigated in the Army, 67 in the Royal Navy and 28 in the RAF.

All those in the Navy and the RAF resulted in proceedings, while the Army figure included those which did not result in proceedings.

The letter was sent to Mr Morris after he had tabled a parliamentary question asking for information about drug abuse in the Services.

Mr Morris said last night: "These figures are extremely worrying, and by the procedure he has chosen to give them the minister has by-passed the House of Commons. They must be published."

Ramblers deny code incites trespass

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Ramblers' Association has refused a request by the Sports Council to withdraw a leaflet which the National Farmers' Union says is an incitement to trespass.

The council said yesterday that it had printed 50,000 copies of the leaflet on behalf of the association, at a cost of £1,800, as part of a four year programme to encourage individual outdoor activities.

However, because of criticism by the union the council said: "We felt that in all conscience we ought to ask the association to withdraw it. It has declined to do so."

The union argues that the leaflet suggests that walkers need keep to paths only on National Trust property, not elsewhere; that they may walk on any common land, even where there is no right of access; and that on private hill land they may disregard warning notices at their own risk.

Mr Fred Elliott, chairman of the union's parliamentary committee, said yesterday that thousands of acres of private

land were open for roaming, but the man who had to make a living from the land deserved consideration. "This leaflet gives him nine and I am bitter that decent people's taxes were used to print it," he added.

Mr Alan Martin, the association's secretary, said that he regarded the leaflet as perfectly sensible and fair and that the farmers had over-reacted.

It warned people to keep to paths on National Trust land, because many people thought mistakenly they could go anywhere they liked. There was no implication that the same did not apply on privately owned land.

People had been walking across common land, such as Dartmoor, for centuries without impediment, even where there was no legal right of access.

The advice to walkers that they should proceed beyond notices at their own risk had been intended as "a mild deterrent" and was not an incitement to trespass.

Viewing in the sun at Belton

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Art dealers, collectors, souvenir hunters and the merely curious poured into Belton House, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, yesterday to pick over the goods that Christie's is to auction on behalf of Lord Brownlow next week.

An even bigger turnout is expected today when viewing the sale can be combined with a stroll in the landscaped parkland and formal gardens of the great Restoration house, not to mention smoked salmon sandwiches and chilled white wine in a striped marquee.

It is the last act of the long drawn out parting of Brownlow and Belton, which has been a family home since the death of the sixth Baron Brownlow in July 1978. At first his son Edward, the present Lord Brownlow, hoped that capital gains might be paid and the house retained by constructing an adventure playground and other attractions to pull in paying visitors, but they did not come in sufficient numbers.

Instead he has now given the house to the nation and sold the National Trust, which is to run it, a substantial part of the contents as well as the surrounding parkland. In return for his generosity the trust has allocated a flat in one wing for the use of the Brownlow family.

It will take Christie's the first three days of next week to



Treasure hunt: One of yesterday's visitors on the library stairs of Belton House, which are for sale, and (below) the exterior of the house (photographs: Jonathan Player)

dispose of the furnishings and other accumulations of the family's three centuries at Belton which are not wanted either by the National Trust or Lord Brownlow. He is now living in Jersey.

The best of Belton's art collection derives from three separate inheritances: first that of John Brownlow who was created Viscount Tyrone in 1718 and was a passionate collector; second, the collection formed by Sir Henry Banks, a London merchant, whose daughter married a Brownlow in 1775; third, Sir Abraham Hume, whose daughter did likewise. Sir Abraham inherited a vast fortune from a "sugar" uncle and was one of the first benefactors of the National Gallery. There are paintings from all those sources in the sale.

The National Trust has tried to keep most of the furniture that had a long association with Belton and much of the material in the sale arrived there in the 1920s after the sale of the family's other stately home, Ashridge Park in Hertfordshire, and their London house in Carlton House Terrace. The star items include a lapis lazuli cabinet on a Charles II giltwood stand and a magnificent George III library staircase over 10ft high.

The other items vary from the sublime to the ridiculous in true country house style. There are fascinating folios and albums of watercolours by gifted members of the family. There are fancy dress clothes made for theatrically minded Victorian ancestors, quantities of washstands and coal scuttles, a pair of superb Regency potty kneeholes (matching several similar pairs retained by the National Trust), and the handsome pram in which Lord Brownlow's sister Caroline was pushed out by her nurse in the 1930s.

Gentle librarian left diary telling how he killed his family

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Mr Frank Parry, a normally gentle librarian, left behind a tragic diary after turning into a crazed killer and shooting his family.

The six-page document read out in court yesterday told why Mr Parry, aged 52, shot his wife, daughter and mother before turning the gun on himself.

It happened because he felt his life had been a failure and, although he wanted to die, he feared leaving behind his loved ones because he was convinced they would suffer in a nuclear war.

Mr Parry, who collected antique firearms, had been questioned over £1,400 missing from the branch library at Kidlington, Oxfordshire, where he worked.

First he shot his wife, Audrey, aged 50, through the head with a revolver as she helped him repair his car. With her body in the front seat he drove from his home in Broughton, Banbury, Oxfordshire, to collect his daughter Justine, aged 12 from school.

He drove her 180 miles to a beauty spot near Moxborough, South Yorkshire, which they had loved, before moving south. There he shot the child through the head.

Next he drove to the home of his mother, Mrs Ruth Parry, aged 79, in Rotherham, with the bodies still in the car.

As police listened in on an interview he shot his mother dead.

Mr Parry walked out and saw police closing in. He pulled out a revolver and shot himself through the head.

Inside his mother's flat police found the diary which the Rotherham coroner, Mr Kenneth Potter, read out in full.

It said: "For some years now I have wished to die. However, this would have meant leaving the three persons dearest in the world to me without my protection."

"I can't leave them to the threat of death from radiation sickness after the coming atomic war."

"On March 28 I realized I couldn't go on, in which case

the only course of action was to take them with me. I have done this. Happily none of them had the slightest inkling what was going to happen. In each case death was instant."

The coroner then read out the entries on every individual death.

Mr Parry wrote: "I cannot get my mother in the car, so she will have to stay in her flat. I shall drive with Audrey and Justine to some pleasant spot which we have enjoyed and shoot myself in the car."

"What of myself? Why have I felt it necessary to kill the three people closest to me, all the objects of my most intense love? It is because of that love that I have taken them with me."

"Well, what were the final arbiters? I have been dead professionally for 12 years, of which the last 10 have been a nightmare."

"More important, I have felt this more since reaching 50. I am a man who thought himself a poet and wanted to be nothing more, yet I have not succeeded in having published as much as a single line."

The note ended: "What really matters is that they never knew. We shall all be at peace for ever now. I think I'll drive to Lady Bower (a north Derbyshire beauty spot)."

"Justine wanted to go there. To those who must deal with the remains I extend my apologies."

The coroner recorded verdicts that Mr Parry unlawfully killed his mother, wife and daughter and killed himself.

Mr Potter said: "It seems to me to have been a happy married man living in the bosom of his family, devoted to his wife and only child. It is difficult to understand the working of his mind, why he should behave in this appalling way."

"When one sees the note one begins to realize that there were many bizarre factors in his make-up."

The coroner had been told that 14 guns were found at his home, eight of them loaded.

Six years' jail for stealing from pensioners

Jack Sawyer, aged 33, of Poplar, east London, stole £130 from two elderly people after posing as a council officer or welfare worker to trick his way into their homes, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. He was jailed for six years.

The Common Sergeant, Judge David Tudor Price, said that Sawyer, with a long criminal record, had been dealt with leniently in the past by being given two years for offences of burglary and deception concerning pensioners.

Sawyer admitted the offences at the homes of Mrs Esther Hallegua, aged 67, a widow, and Mr John Aldrich, aged 67, a retired road sweeper, both of Stepney, east London.

The court heard that Sawyer rifled a drawer and stole Mrs Hallegua's savings of £40. After taking a pension book from Mr Aldrich's flat, Sawyer made his victim, a cripple using a walking frame, accompany him to a post office, and then stole £90.

Nuclear flask in rail crash 'not dangerous'

A nuclear flask carried by a train in collision with a car on an unguarded level crossing on the Hastings to Ashford line at Appledore, Kent, was in no danger of contamination, Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Transport, told the Commons in a statement yesterday.

The train, travelling on a single line from Dungeness Power Station on Thursday, was restricted to 5mph but had been going even more slowly as the driver had seen sheep on the line.

British Rail would be making a report on the extent of the damage when their inquiries were completed. The flask had been examined by the Central Electricity Generating Board within 90 minutes of the accident and found to be undamaged.

Although the crossing was unguarded, there were clear road warning signs.

Heart-lung woman recovering

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Britain's only surviving heart-lung transplant patient, Mrs Brenda Barber, has been moved from intensive care to a single room on the open surgical ward at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire.

Three weeks after her operation, Mrs Barber, aged 36, of



Mrs Barber: Doing well

Lewisham, south-east London, has been taking short strolls regularly in the hospital grounds with her husband, Stephen, and daughter, Samantha Jane, aged five.

A hospital spokesman, Mr John Edwards, said: "Mrs Barber continues to make good progress, although it will be several more weeks before any possibility of her being able to go home could be considered. It was felt by her doctors that she had progressed sufficiently to be moved from intensive care."

Mrs Barber is the first patient to receive a new heart and lungs at Papworth Hospital. The operation was performed successfully on two other patients at Harefield Hospital, west London, last December and in March, but neither survived more than three weeks.

Papworth Hospital announced yesterday that a heart transplant had been carried out on a man, in his early twenties, from Cheshire. He is the hospital's seventy-third heart transplant.

Teachers will draw up guidelines for the arts

By Colin Hughes

Lecturers and teachers of the arts are to draw up proposals for assessing the performance of pupils studying subjects such as drama, music, painting and literature, a conference was told yesterday.

This move resulted from the decision by the Department of Education and Science not to lay down guidelines for assessing the arts, after last year's publication of a widely criticized report of an Assessment of Performance Unit working party.

The newly formed National Association of Education in Arts, holding its first working conference at the London Institute of Education, challenged the traditional view that arts subjects were too subjective to enable assessment guidelines to be formulated.

Professor David Aspin, of King's College London, said the decision by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to put the arts at the core of the curriculum was a victory in a long battle to persuade policy-makers that the arts are fundamental, not an educational frill.

Scientists had long held sway with their view that arts

subjects were "irredeemably subjective", allowing ministers and parents to consider the arts as a "second-class citizen" in schools. Professor Aspin said progress in a pupil's informed understanding of the arts and ability to judge could be tested, but assessment criteria could not be laid out in tables and checklists.

The value of arts studies lay in the variety of interpretations and possibilities of meaning, and pupils could be assessed in their learning of the different techniques used in judging and making art.

Professor Aspin joked about the lecturer who was asked: "How do you measure sensitivity?" He replied: "Out of 25." The student was asked: "What did you get out of your course on sensitivity?" He answered: "A B".

He countered by saying it was possible to assess a student's ability to judge the value of Hamlet or Beethoven's Third Symphony by testing whether it was a judgment to which others could respond, and whether the pupils rendered an intelligible response.

Gun killer still at large inquest is told

Despite extensive investigations, no one has been charged with the murder of Mr Patrick O'Nione, aged 52, of Collins Street, Blackheath, south-east London, on November 30, 1982, police told an inquest yesterday.

Mr O'Nione was outside a wine bar in Tower Bridge Road, London. Professor Hugh Johnson, the pathologist, told the Southwark coroner that he was hit in the back of the head, the right shoulder and through the chest and abdomen. He died from multiple gunshot wounds.

A verdict of unlawful killing was returned.

Protest at Commons guide dog ban

By John Winter

Mr Robert Wareing Labour MP for Liverpool, West Derby who said that Mrs Allen was being denied her democratic right.

Mr Wareing complained to the Deputy Speaker, Mr Paul Dean, that it was ludicrous that Mrs Allen should be refused admission with her dog when she had been admitted to the Lords with the same dog recently.

Mr Dean said that the services committee had recently considered the question and had decided not to change the arrangements so he could not help.

Mr Wareing said that Mrs Allen could have gained access without her dog, which could have been taken care of, but such animals fretted and

became ill even if they were removed from their owners only for a short time.

Mrs Allen said: "I came to hear the report stage of the Cycle Tracks Bill because blind people are very worried at having to share footpaths with cyclists and we have been battling against it."

"This is discrimination against blind people at the highest level and I feel very sad about it."

Mr Wareing said he would be pressing for space to be made available in the public gallery for a limited number of blind people and their dogs.

Last year when Mrs Allen collected her MBE from the Queen she was refused permission to take her guide dog into Buckingham Palace.

The Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales said yesterday that output from farms in March was down by 2.8 per cent on a year ago.

Factory set alight to stop smell

Peter Wilson, a farm labourer, took the law into his own hands the night he started a £44,000 fire at a maggot factory, Kynboards, Crown Court in Cheshire was told yesterday.

For years a farming community had suffered the stench from rotting carcasses and dead fish stored at the factory, despite appeals to the local authority and MPs that it should be closed.

Finally, Wilson, aged 17, of Coole Lane, Reddington, near Nantwich, Cheshire, paid a midnight visit to the factory and set fire to it, Mr Richard Fairley, for the prosecution, told the court.

After giving himself up to the police, Wilson said: "Everyone was fed up with the stench, and did nothing. So I decided to get rid of it once and for all."

He admitted arson and was ordered to carry out 200 hours community service, and pay £500 compensation. The Recorder, Mr Graham Jones, said he had received a public petition pleading for leniency.

Jenkins to rest

Mr Roy Jenkins, founder of the Social Democratic Party and MP for Hillhead, is recovering from a viral infection and has been advised to take two or three weeks' rest from his parliamentary and public duties.

Cheaper burials

Liverpool City Council yesterday announced plans to provide "simple, dignified and inexpensive" funerals, to start after the council elections next month. The intention is to cut the cost of burial by up to a quarter.

Behan death

Mrs Kathleen Behan, mother of Brendan Behan, the playwright and a sister of Peadar Kearney, who wrote the Irish national anthem has died in a nursing home in Dublin. She was 94.

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CIA chief apologises to Senate committee on mining of Nicaragua ports

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr William Casey, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has apologized for not keeping senators better informed about the agency's role in the mining of harbours in Nicaragua. He confirmed that the mining has been stopped.

He faced the Senate intelligence committee for two hours in a fence-building session that allowed a furor over disclosures of mining operations carried out earlier this year in Nicaragua's three principal ports - Corinto, Puerto Sandino, and El Bluff.

After the apology, Senator Patrick Moynihan withdrew his resignation as the committee's vice-chairman. He quit the post in protest at not being kept informed of the mining operation, which President Reagan sanctioned personally. Mr Casey, a millionaire, was Mr Reagan's election director in 1980.

The apology was part of a deal worked out in recent days to reduce tension between the CIA and the Senate intelligence committee, which has the legal

Costa Rica blow for Pastora

Nicaraguan exiles said their political base in Costa Rica has been closed on the orders of the American CIA (Reuters reports from San José). In a radio interview Señor Eden Pastora, military leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde) accused the Costa Rican Government of obeying CIA orders. He said it was to force Arde into an alliance with right-wing CIA-funded insurgents launching attacks from Honduras.

The fence-mending agreement comes at a time of tension between Congress and the White House over US activities in Central America. Mr Reagan is meeting stiff opposition to his request for \$21m in aid to guerrillas fighting the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, who were almost certainly involved in the mining of the Nicaraguan ports.

● **THE HAGUE** - The United States accused Nicaragua of trying to turn the International Court of Justice into a political forum (AFP reports).

Nicaragua has come to the court alleging that the United States has violated international law by mining its ports and launching covert activities.

Mr Davis Robinson, the State Department's legal advisor began yesterday's second public session by disputing the court's jurisdiction over this case. The court was not the appropriate place because the issue was not limited to Nicaragua, he said. The vital interests of neighbouring states were at stake, and the United Nations and the Organization of American States were already involved in the matter.

Nicaragua had "never accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of this court", Mr Robinson said, and as such its bid to invoke the court could only be viewed as politically motivated.

right to be kept fully informed of all intelligence activities. Mr Casey promised to improve ways of keeping the committee informed about undercover operations, particularly activities such as the Nicaraguan operation.

Many Republicans and conservative Democrats urged Mr Moynihan to withdraw his resignation from the vice-chairmanship of the Senate committee, fearing that a new incumbent might be less sympathetic to Mr Reagan's policies in Central America.

In a formal statement, the committee said it had been agreed that "it was not adequately informed in a timely manner of certain significant intelligence activity in such a manner as to permit the committee to carry out its oversight function".

Mr Casey has a history of tense relations with the Senate intelligence committee, members of which gave him a hostile reception when they interviewed him for his appointment.



Senator Moynihan. Quit his post in protest.

Rioters get pledge on food prices

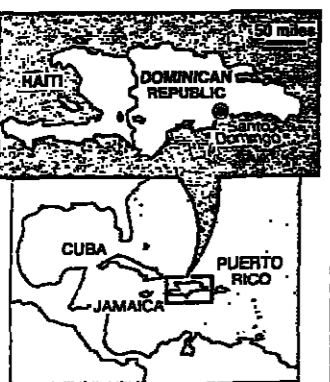
Santo Domingo (Reuters) - Offices, shops and factories in the Dominican Republic reopened yesterday as people returned to work after food riots killed more than 50.

Security officials said patrols continued in Santo Domingo and 20 other towns and villages torn by violence when the poor of this Caribbean nation protested against 50 per cent price rises decreed by the International Monetary Fund.

The officials said many of the 5,000 people detained during the disturbances were being released after identification. Streets and parks, littered by barricades and remnants of burnt tyres, were being cleared.

Government officials and IMF negotiators continued secret talks on easing the republic's economic problems. The loan talks centre on terms for renewal of a \$450m (£321m) IMF credit extended to the republic to ease a \$2.6 billion external debt, consuming about 20 per cent of the gross domestic product.

● **Prices pledge:** The Government said it would now try to ease the impact of food price increases (AP reports). More government food stores, which sell food at less-than-market prices, would be established, and efforts would be made to raise the wages of public employees.



Anti-pollution ministers won by cash argument

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A European ministerial conference on the environment, which ended in Athens yesterday, endorsed guidelines for reconciling economic development and protection of the environment, especially in coastal areas, river banks and lake shores.

The "policy guide" prepared by Greece, introduced a new concept in arguing that environmental protection can actually enhance economic development.

It was in this sense that the participants from 21 member states of the Council of Europe, including 18 ministers, urged their governments to consider that the cost of such protection should be inseparable from "normal development costs".

Mr William Wilkinson, chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, who represented Britain, said this new approach was the single most important achievement of the three-day conference. "Now it is of so much development

versus environment," he said. "To get the best economic results, we must bring them together."

One example, according to Mr Wilkinson, was that pollution control in many cases led to economies in fuel consumption. "I think this is a new way of looking at things," he said.

Mr Antonis Tritis, the Greek Environment Minister, chaired the conference in Vouliagmeni, a seaside resort at least 12 miles from the highly polluted capital. He said: "The main conclusion of the conference was a cry for action before it is too late". It had opened the way for transnational legislation and had served as a counter for the exchange of experience on how to monitor the problems and coordinate programmes.

"Whatever we decide here," he added, "becomes a weapon in the hands of the people, who can always invoke it to demand protection for their environment."



Debris of war: An Iraqi soldier looking at the wreckage of an Iranian Phantom jet and other military equipment displayed in an open air museum in Baghdad.

Iraqi Navy attacks three more ships

Baghdad (Reuters) - Three more vessels came under fire from Iraqi naval gunners yesterday as Baghdad kept up efforts to deter ships from using Iran's ports at the head of the Gulf.

A military spokesman here said all three "enemy naval targets" were left blazing after Iraqi naval vessels opened fire in an area which Baghdad has barred to shipping because of its war with Iran.

None of the ships was named, but Iraq's reference to "enemy targets" in the past has been taken to identify Iranian vessels or foreign merchant ships plying the northern reaches of the Gulf.

Iraq has so far issued no statement regarding the Saudi-owned tanker Safina al-Arab, which had an explosion on board in the north of the Gulf on Wednesday night.

Crew taken on board rescue

vessels said at first they believed the tanker was hit by a missile or a mine, but there were conflicting reports yesterday as to what caused the blast.

● **BAHRAIN:** A Dutch salvage team said yesterday it had extinguished a fire that started on board the Safina al-Arab (Reuters reports).

● **GENEVA:** Iran is asking the United Nations to try to find out if other countries helped

Iraq manufacture chemical weapons it is alleged to have used in the Gulf war. Mr Hossein Sheikholeslam, an Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, said at a press conference here yesterday (Reuters reports).

Meanwhile, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported in Tehran that Hojatoleslam Mahdi Shahabadi, a clergyman and parliamentary deputy, was killed by shrapnel during an inspection tour of the Gulf war

Cosmonauts take time to crack a nut

Moscow (Reuters) - A nut that refused to turn delayed Soviet cosmonauts' maintenance work on the Salyut 7 space station during a spacewalk on Thursday, *Trud* newspaper reported.

Snatches of conversation between the cosmonauts and ground control showed that the cosmonauts had to make several attempts to remove a nut on a reserve fuel conduit they were servicing.

"Have you managed to move the nut a bit?" asked Yuri Romanenko, a former cosmonaut at Moscow mission control.

"Nope, no way," answered Leonid Kizim, a cosmonaut, from outside the space station. "The fourth spanner won't grip."

"Try to hit the nut with something," suggested Romanenko.

After several more exchanges with earth, in which the cosmonauts said they were afraid they might damage a vent on the fuel system by hitting the nut, ground control advised the cosmonauts to try a different type of wrench.

At one stage Kizim shouted: "One, two, and off it comes." But his delight was ill-advised, as the nut remained stuck. The cosmonauts had to spend another 40 minutes while their spacecraft was in the dark shadow of the Earth before the nut came off and maintenance work could be completed.

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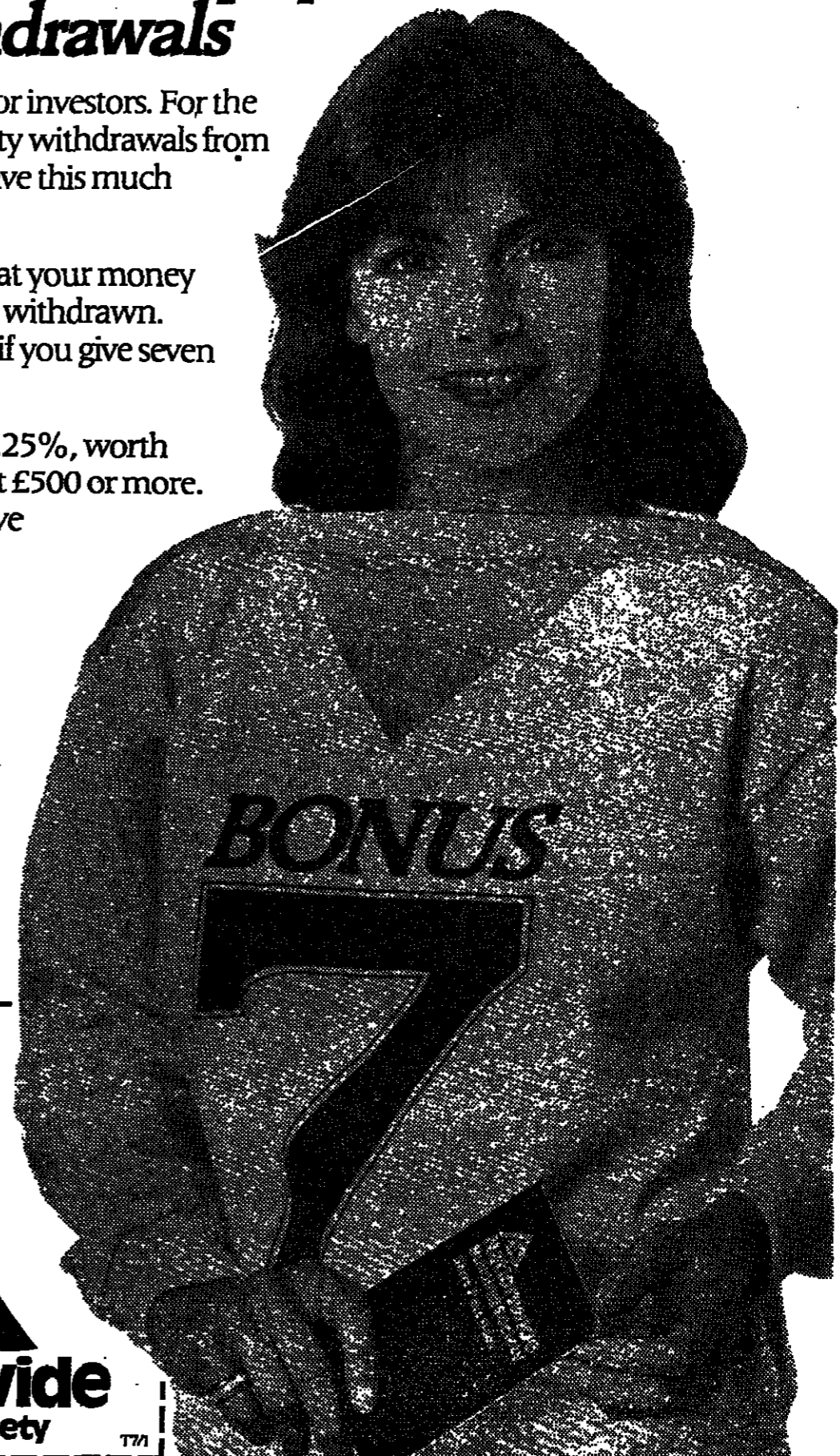
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Zhao criticizes Reagan on Central America and Taiwan

From David Bonavia, Peking

China "is not in agreement" with aspects of the Central American policy of the United States, President Reagan was told in Peking yesterday by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister.

A US spokesman reported this to a massed corps of American and other foreign journalists in Peking's newest American-style luxury hotel.

The Chinese leader also told Mr Reagan that China is displeased by his administration's continuing support for Taiwan, especially arms sales.

The President's talks with Mr Zhao covered Afghanistan, Cambodia, Central America, the Middle East, Southern Africa and economic developments in the Third World.

On Central America, Mr Reagan "heavily emphasized" US economic assistance, the spokesman said. "At the same time he emphasized that there is a military problem caused by the Soviet Union."

On Korea, China had reiterated its suggestion for a tripartite conference of North and South Korea and the United States, whereas Washington would like to see China - as a former belligerent in the Korean war - included in such talks.

A solution suggested by diplomats here is that China might host a conference of the two Koreas and the United States, without itself attending in an official capacity.

The Chinese have repeated to

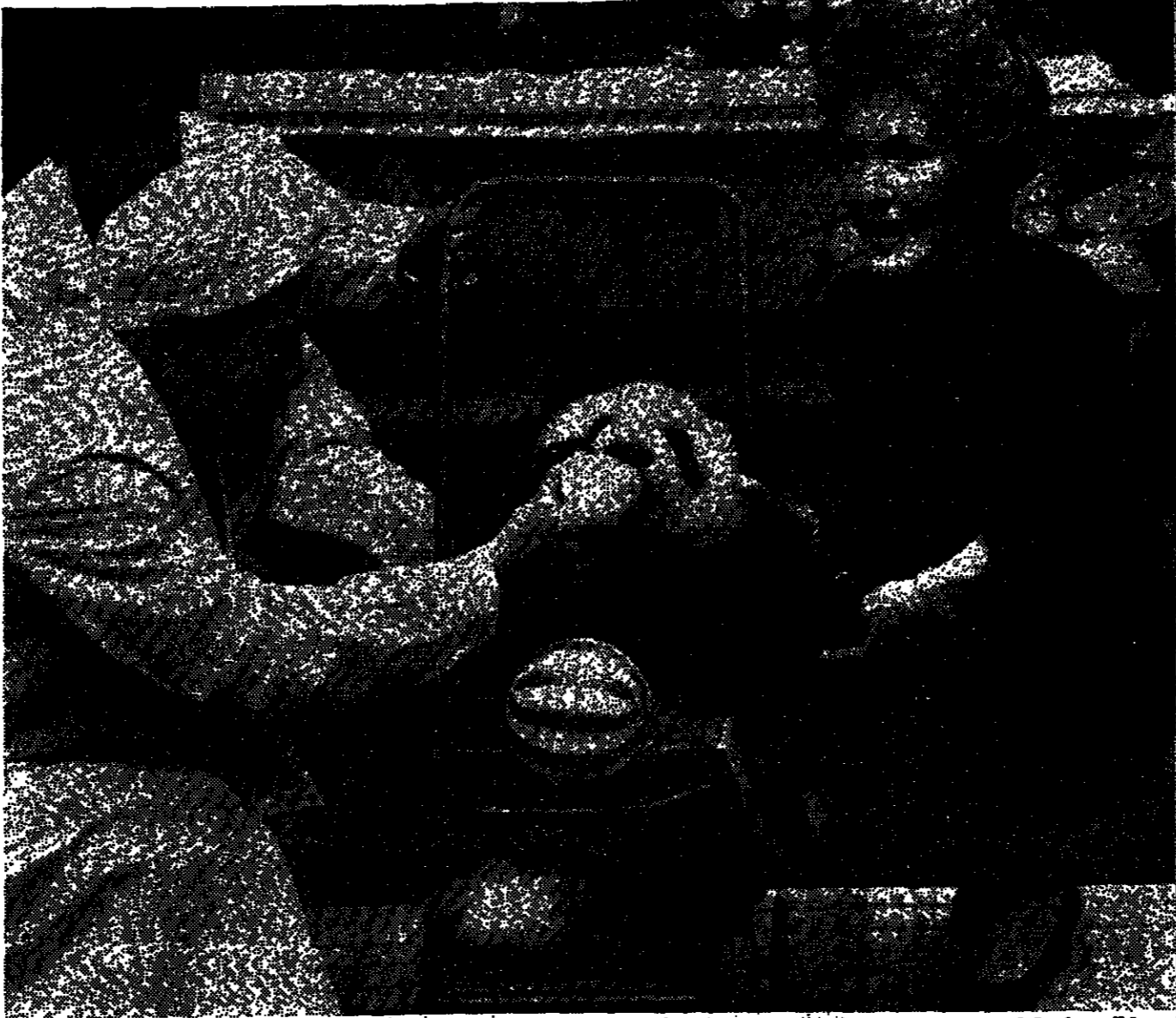
Mr Reagan their criticisms of US controls affecting China's textile exports, and American restrictions on items of high technology which China would like to buy. However, it has been announced that an agreement on China's purchase of American nuclear technology for peaceful uses will be initiated during the President's visit.

President Reagan told an audience of Chinese community leaders here yesterday that the United States was founded by people "who sought freedom to worship God". At a meeting in the Great Hall of the People, he said the American Revolution was "the first great uprising for human rights and independence against colonial rule."

The President praised "economic reform for legitimate risk and honest toil" as the basis of success. Observers recall that this is the basis of the economic policy espoused by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese elder statesman, with whom Mr Reagan has not yet had talks.

American journalists accompanying the President feel he has not been given as many opportunities as he would like to make direct contact with ordinary Chinese people. White House officials are understood to be disappointed that banquet speeches and yesterday's talks with community leaders were not broadcast live.

This is widely interpreted as a symbolic gesture by the Chinese leaders to protest against the



Panda diplomacy: Mrs Nancy Reagan holding hands with Zhengzheng as the seven-month-old panda drinks its milk at Peking Zoo. Mrs Reagan handed over two Jeeps and \$13,000 collected by American children to save pandas at risk from a bamboo shortage.

Administration's continued refusal to downgrade its relations with Taiwan.

In a speech prepared for a banquet last night, Mr Reagan noted that China hoped to quadruple its production by the year 2000, and that the American people "wish you

success and offer you our cooperation in this great endeavour".

PEKING - British and Chinese officials yesterday began a thirteenth round of talks on the future of Hong Kong, seemingly unaffected by ministerial negotiations last week (Reuter reports).

The normal line-up of negotiators, headed by Mr Zhou Nan on the Chinese side and Sir Richard Evans, the Ambassador, on the British side, met in the Diaoyutai state guesthouse. Neither side disclosed the content of the talks.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, announced last week after this talks in Peking with Chinese leaders that Britain would relinquish sovereignty and administrative powers over Hong Kong when its lease on most of the territory runs out in 1997.

Sikh temple under siege after seven shot dead

Delhi (Reuters) - Indian security forces laid siege to a Sikh temple yesterday after at least seven people died in a gun battle in the northern Indian state of Punjab, police said.

The seven were killed on Thursday in an exchange of fire between extremists on the temple roof in the town of Moga and units of the paramilitary Border Security Force, a spokesman said.

"Some extremists may still be inside the temple," he said. "We have arrested 11 people so far."

As troops ringed the shrine yesterday, those inside appealed to the authorities on the temple's public address system to enter and remove two seriously wounded people.

The Press Trust of India news agency said security force officers demanded that the injured should be brought outside before being given medical attention.

The siege follows a series of fresh attacks in the turbulent state, where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live. An election was shot dead on Thursday night in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. In another district, gunmen killed a merchant.

The PTI said some train services were cancelled after extremists dynamited stretches of railway track. No casualties were reported in the bombings.

The siege of the Moga shrine followed Indian leaders' statements that those responsible for the communal violence were using the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, as a refuge from the security forces.

Security forces have not entered the shrine, apparently respecting the Sikh tradition of giving sanctuary to any visitor and out of fear of provoking further unrest.

An Indian opposition leader returned from Amritsar yesterday and appealed to the Government to invite Sikh leaders for talks to pacify the state.

Mr Subramanian Swamy, deputy leader of the Janata party, urged the Government to respond to some demands of the Sikhs' main political party. The Akali Dal for religious and political concessions.

Secret prison talks Solidarity leaders might be released

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The eleven imprisoned Solidarity leaders and advisers accused of trying to overthrow the Communist state have been holding secret talks with the Polish authorities about the conditions for their possible release, sources close to the prisoners said yesterday.

Defence lawyers and relatives have been denied access to the prisoners - who include veteran dissidents Mr Jacek Kuron and Mr Adam Michnik - for a week. As far as visits from defence counsel are concerned, this is against Polish regulations. The commander of Rakowiec has explained the move by saying that the prison was in the grips of a flu epidemic, but, says one source, "he winked broadly when he delivered the explanation."

The idea of keeping the prisoners incommunicado is to prevent information about the talks leaking out and to stop prisoners from communication with each other through their defence counsel. So far, this has proved successful and little is known of the discussions.

Solidarity sympathisers fear that the release of only nine of the 11 defendants, keeping Mr Kuron and Mr Michnik in prison. This could then be portrayed as a conciliatory gesture, side-stepping a large and embarrassing show trial, but at the same time an example would be made of the two dissidents.

The release of the 11 leaders and advisers has taken on important symbolic value. The release of nine has let it be known that the freeing of the prisoners would be a key signal

to the West in its deliberations about lifting economic sanctions. The church has been talking for several months with the state about the possibility of release.

In talks with visiting dignitaries, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate, frequently alludes to the necessity of releasing the 11 prisoners, and indeed the 400 other political offenders, before the situation can return to normal.

The members of the Kor dissident group in jail apart from Mr Kuron and Mr Michnik are Henry K Wujec and Zbigniew Romaszowski. The Solidarity seven, some of whom are in poor health, are: Andrzej Gajdzia, Seweryn Jaworski, Jan Rulawski, Marian Jurczyk, Grzegorz Palica, Karol Modzelewski and Andrzej Rozplochowicz.

Discredit campaign: The Polish government has stepped up its campaign to discredit the Solidarity underground ahead of planned demonstrations on May Day and May 3. In an interview to be published in all official newspapers today, the head of the Polish secret service, General Wladyslaw Ciesion, said that previous attempts to demonstrate against the Government have proved to be fiascos. "The so called underground would have ceased to exist long ago were it not for the moral encouragement and material help from the West... myths of the 'underground' and 'social resistance' are tottering and falling apart, and an increasing number of followers acknowledge with bitterness their own political defeat."

He then referred to allegations of mass graves, although neither the bishops nor Mr Nikomo have spoken in such terms.

Senator Nikala's remarks, which were made in the Matabeleland capital of Bulawayo, fall far short of an official announcement of an investigation into what happened in Matabeleland South between the introduction of a curfew on February 3 and the lifting of the most stringent restrictions three weeks ago.

There has been no official acknowledgment of wrong doing by the security forces and last week Mr Magabe praised the Army for restraint and performing "a wonderful duty" in Matabeleland.

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Challenge on graves accepted by bishop

From Stephen Taylor Harare

A Zimbabwe Government minister has challenged Roman Catholic Church leaders and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the opposition Zapa party, to point out graves of civilians said to have been killed by the Army in the curfew area of Matabeleland.

Senator Enos Nikala, Minister of National Supplies, said two unnamed government ministers would visit Matabeleland to investigate allegations of military atrocities, including killing, torture, beatings and systematic starvation of the Ndebele minority.

In response, the Rt Rev Henry Karlen, the Catholic Bishop of Matabeleland, said he would be willing to present evidence and had no doubt priests at missions in the curfew area would feel the same.

Bishop Karlen and other members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference submitted a report on army brutality to the Government earlier this month. The bishop subsequently singled out by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, as an agent of Mr Nkomo and Zapa.

Senator Nikala, himself a Ndebele although a member of Mr Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party, said: "Nkomo and his bishops can choose the time to call on us and we will go with them so they can show us the graves."

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Hart stays ahead to carry Utah

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Final results in the Utah caucuses gave a resounding victory to Senator Gary Hart.

He captured 12 of the 22 delegates Utah will send to the Democratic national convention in July in San Francisco. In Wednesday's voting Mr Hart secured 51 per cent, Mr Walter Mondale 20 per cent and the

where there is a lot of backstage wheeling and dealing.

The system contrasts sharply with the direct voting in a state primary. Some states operate a complex, dual system, using both caucuses and primary to elect delegates to convention, which selects the presidential nominee.

Utah's caucuses involved what were billed as "mass meetings" to select delegates. In fact, only 10,000 people turned up throughout the state, a minute portion of registered Democrats.

The same pattern was seen in Missouri on April 18 and in Arizona on April 14, when the estimated turnout of registered Democrats was 40,000 and 33,000 respectively. Rarely does turnout exceed 10 per cent in a caucus. One of the worst on record was in Missouri in 1980, when one-tenth of 1 per cent of eligible Democrats attended caucus meetings.

Terror plea: President Reagan has asked Congress urgently to approve far-reaching legislation aimed at detecting, frustrating and punishing terrorist both in United States and abroad.

In a letter to Congress he said: "It is essential that we act immediately to cope with this menace and to increase cooperation with other governments in dealing with this growing threat to our way of life."

The letter and four bills were released by the White House on Thursday on behalf of the President.

Rev Jesse Jackson 3 per cent. The remaining votes were for uncommitted delegates.

As usual in caucuses throughout the country, the turn-out was a fraction of registered Democrats eligible to vote. The caucus system is a lengthy process in which voters are required to attend meetings

in a clear sign of the way things will go in Brazil after the Government's narrow victory this week over legislation for direct presidential elections this year, President Figueiredo said that "the phase of the President running the country in isolation is ended."

The leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, Senator Jose Sarney, said that the President wanted to start negotiating with all parties immediately.

There was sporadic disturbances in São Paulo yesterday. They had no political conno-

tion, being confined to some of the mass of unemployed who hang around the city centre; they were taking advantage of the tense atmosphere to break through windows and loot. The disorders were over by early evening.

Censorship on television and radio has been lifted, and other emergency controls in Brasilia have been dropped.

The opposition is undecided on whether to suspend demonstrations during negotiations with a Government that suffered a bad blow in Thursday's vote.

nam had permitted men in its huge occupation army to marry Cambodian women, as part of the process of obliteration the Khmers, he added.

The Hanoi Government's aim, he said, was to create a new race in Cambodia to facilitate the creation of an Indo-China federation dominated by Vietnam.

After the general had screened a film showing recent Vietnamese incursions on the eastern border, a former Government minister in the audience asked why Thailand should not claim the right to pursue Vietnamese troops back into Cambodia, given that Vietnam claimed to have entered Thailand in pursuit of resistance guerrillas.

General Arthit's assertions about the "Vietnamization" of Cambodia are accepted by few independent observers.

The Zola Budd story South African press turns on Britain

Every twist and turn of the battle of Zola Budd, the spindly-legged "bullet from Bloem" as the 17-year-old athlete is known here, to win acceptance as a British runner, is being chronicled with obsessive interest in the South African press and has opened up new insights into the love-hate relationship with Britain.

Time and again over the past months her prospects have been the splash story on the front pages of both English and Afrikaans newspapers, displacing weightier news items about the latest diplomatic developments in southern Africa or the continuing conflict in Namibia.

Zola's treatment at Crystal Palace, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher's denunciation of it, were given front-page treatment in nearly all newspapers, with *Beeld*, one of the leading Afrikaans dailies, making it the main story under the headline "Maggie tree vir Zola in bres" (Maggie steps into the breach for Zola).

It is, it should be said, a preoccupation confined almost entirely to South Africa's white population. The Budd affair has stirred up little black interest here either for or against, any more than has the impending English rugby tour. Football is the only sport that truly arouses black passions, or has any sort of mass following.

There has been surprisingly little criticism directed at Miss Budd herself, perhaps because white South Africans are now getting used to their most talented sportsmen and sportswomen having the international competition that they are denied at home by the anti-apartheid boycott.

A few days after her departure, *The Star*, Johannesburg's evening newspaper, invited its readers to give their views by telephone on whether she was right to leave in the space of two hours 101 callers - almost all white - responded. Of these 97 said her action was justified and wished her luck.

To the extent that there has been criticism, it has been of the hugger-mugger way in which Miss Budd was spirited out of the country. Even members of her family were initially under the impression that she and her parents had gone on holiday in South Africa.

Mr Rudolf Opperman, president of the South African Sport Federation, drew an unfavourable comparison with the case of Sydney Maree, a gifted black runner now living in the United States, "who left with our blessings". Miss Budd, he said, "left in secrecy as if to seek asylum in Britain".

What the Budd affair has done above all else, however, is to touch the nerve of anti-

British feeling which is never far below the surface of Afrikaner society, though in this instance comment in some English-language newspapers has been hardly less hostile.

The contrast between the lightning speed with which Miss Budd's citizenship papers were processed and the general British discouragement of sporting links with South Africa is widely seen as evidence of the Government's "double standards": allowing no sporting ties with South Africa when these are politically inexpedient, but falling over itself to snap up a South African athlete who might win an Olympic gold medal.

In this these South African critics are at one, if for different reasons, with many Labour politicians and anti-apartheid lobbyists in Britain who, somewhat contradictorily, are castigated here for the "pettiness" and "meanness" of their reaction to Miss Budd's arrival.

"Is this really the country whose colours Zola, as she says, will be proud to wear on the Olympic track?" asked *Beeld*. *The Sunday Express*, regarded as a liberal newspaper, accused the British of "baiting and exploiting their new child athlete as though it were a blood sport". The same leading article suggested that she would have done better "if she had quietly accepted an American scholarship, and aimed at the Olympic games in 1988". The Americans, the writer added pointedly, "have a tradition of generously accepting outsiders".

Miss Budd's extreme youth brought out an almost fatherly protective streak in the editor of *The Citizen*, a conservative English-language newspaper, which said that Mr Peter Pitt, chairman of the Greater London Councils Recreation Committee, was "a damned swine to threaten Zola in the way he has done" a reference to Mr Pitt's opposition to her running at Crystal Palace.

All this touchiness reflects the irritation here with Britain's continuing support for the Glenageary Agreement, particularly under a Conservative Prime Minister of whom better things, from Pretoria's point of view, had been hoped.

The political columnist of *Beeld* thought he had found the explanation for the British attitude. "The Commonwealth and the illusion of greatness it can lend is all that stands between Britain and the status of a relatively unimportant European power," he wrote. The ostracism of South Africa in sport was an easy way of keeping black members of the Commonwealth happy.

Michael Hornsby

where there is a lot of backstage wheeling and dealing.

The system contrasts sharply with the direct voting in a state primary. Some states operate a complex, dual system, using both caucuses and primary to elect delegates to convention, which selects the presidential nominee.

Utah's caucuses involved what were billed as "mass meetings" to select delegates. In fact, only 10,000 people turned up throughout the state, a minute portion of registered Democrats.

The same pattern was seen in Missouri on April 18 and in Arizona on April 14, when the estimated turnout of registered Democrats was 40,000 and 33,000 respectively. Rarely does turnout exceed 10 per cent in a caucus. One of the worst on record was in Missouri in 1980, when one-tenth of 1 per cent of eligible Democrats attended caucus meetings.

Terror plea: President Reagan has asked Congress urgently to approve far-reaching legislation aimed at detecting, frustrating and punishing terrorist both in United States and abroad.

In a letter to Congress he said: "It is essential that we act immediately to cope with this menace and to increase cooperation with other governments in dealing with this growing threat to our way of life."

The letter and four bills were released by the White House on Thursday on behalf of the President.

Rev Jesse Jackson 3 per cent. The remaining votes were for uncommitted delegates.

As usual in caucuses throughout the country, the turn-out was a fraction of registered Democrats eligible to vote. The caucus system is a lengthy process in which voters are required to attend meetings

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The leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, Senator Jose Sarney, said that the President wanted to start negotiating with all parties immediately.

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The Hanoi Government's aim, he said, was to create a new race in Cambodia to facilitate the creation of an Indo-China federation dominated by Vietnam.

After the general had screened a film showing recent Vietnamese incursions on the eastern border, a former Government minister in the audience asked why Thailand should not claim the right to pursue Vietnamese troops back into Cambodia, given that Vietnam claimed to have entered Thailand in pursuit of resistance guerrillas.

General Arthit's assertions about the "Vietnamization" of Cambodia are accepted by few independent observers.

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General Arthit's assertions

Irving Wardle encounters a pessimistic mood in the Broadway season

A graveyard sign of the Times Square beat



The Human Comedy: back to seasonal renewal

Theatre in London

Troubled waters

The Seagull
Greenwich

Unlike his recent carve-up of *The White Devil* at this address, Philip Prowse's severely compressed and non-naturalistic *Seagull* is no act of directorial sacrilege; and for once, Mr Prowse's set commands less attention than his actors.

The set, needless to say, remains the most important single element in the show. It consists of a permanent arrangement of three leaf-smothered walls which do double service as semi-realistic box and (by glaring frontal illumination) as a cyclorama conveying the sense of infinite space. Both uses contribute to the fluid, dream-like atmosphere that pervades the evening, coupled with a downstage platform which first appears as the stage for Konstantin's play (the auditorium becomes the lake), and remains in position as a secluded place of observation for characters excluded from the events.

Exclusion and detachment are the dominant motifs, announced from the start where the whole company assemble, each sitting in his own pool of silence, and addressing stray wisps of dialogue across the whole width of the stage. Thereafter the action unfolds with no break between the first three acts, and with frequent overlaps between one scene and another: so that Nina is left alone to watch the party assembling for dinner, or the dead bird is left where Konstantin throws it down to Nina, for Arkadina to kick it away in disgust in a later scene.

Mr Hyde
New End

Alan Drury's *Sparrowfall*, a few years ago, was a wry picture of an executive elite covering up for scandalous and semi-insane behaviour by one of its number. Plunging into darkest Victorian sexuality and Jack the Ripper's supposed Masonic connexion, *Mr Hyde* is a much nastier piece which leaves an uneasy impression that our own society is somehow the real target.

The cluttered, windowless salon, encrusted with blood-red drapes, suggests the sort of club where Dracula is hourly expected. Not far wrong: the princely guest with the Hyde pseudonym never goes out without his tiny razor.

The gentlemen's pleasures in this establishment include lurid tableaux of sex and death enacted on a stage beneath a Masonic symbol. Class itself is seen as a freemasonry protecting its members absolutely while the lower ranks are exploited and killed. Hyde's claim to head "a superior order" is a delicate pun connecting secret society with class structure.

That is typical of Mr Drury's beautifully precise, elegant writing, which gives Pinterish

Anthony Masters

Arriving in New York to the sound of breaking glass and an amplified archiepiscopal address from St Patrick's Cathedral to Central Park, I resolved for once to stick to the Times Square beat instead of taking refuge in the quiet little theatres beyond Eighth Avenue. There was no pressing reason to visit their allegedly mediocre revivals of Odeon and Sholom Aleichem: better see what was going on inside the Broadway novelty shop even if that meant seeing nothing but musicals (the main dramatic spaces having been commandeered by Tom Stoppard, Michael Frayn, Caryl Churchill and C. P. Taylor).

Everyone you speak to, from theatre-funding executives to *Variety*-reading lift operators, agrees that this has been a bad season. The story is told of a *New York Times* editor who welcomed a new reviewer to the staff by leading him up to the summit of the building to see the theatre district spread out below. "All this shall be yours", he announced, extending a

Neck and neck

La Bayadère
Covent Garden

How justified the praise was that I heaped on the Royal Ballet's corps in *La Bayadère* earlier this year was confirmed when I saw the Ballet of the Paris Opéra's version recently. The French cast do very well, but the stretch, pull and poise of the British cast is better still. However, on the principle that trying harder never does any harm, let me mention that 20 years ago both the Royal and Kirov companies used to be even better.

There was a newcomer among the three soloists at Covent Garden on Thursday: Elizabeth Tullock in the solo with cabrioles. At her best, her feet are very neat, her arms well stretched, her timing good, but this first attempt was not evenly sustained all through.

For those solo parts, the two companies are about neck and neck, both with some outstanding young dancers and others who are acceptable but less than ideal. In the leading roles, Paris definitely has the edge at present (I saw three strong pairs of principals at successive performances). The Royal's challenge must come from its new generation, and putting on Antonette Sibley as Nikia on Thursday may be read as a way of demonstrating to the next contestants the style that used to come naturally to Royal Ballet ballerinas.

John Percival

Shorty Rogers/Bud Shank

Ronnie Scott's

Shorty Rogers and Bud Shank have to deal, first of all, with their shared past. Both were graduates, cum laude, of California's cool school of the early 1950s, and since neither has been much heard of since, the audience approaching them in the 1980s probably still expects to see crew-cut, chino slacks and penny loafers.

Rogers, who plays the flugelhorn, is a skilled arranger and is equally remembered for his small group, the Giants, and for his exciting big band. He stays as close to the image as the passage of 30 years has allowed. A lightweight business suit of the Eisenhower era complements his neatly trimmed beard and the tone of his horn.

Baker/Parsons
Wigmore Hall

The piano stool was for a moment empty, and Dame Janet seemed to have something to say. She waited for a silence almost more intense than any sound in the evening. Then, after a full programme, and after two encores, a still small voice began to sing "Thru' bushes and thro' briars".

The last thing we needed to hear after this was that her heart was like a singing bird. For in that one unaccompanied encore lay the disillusion of a quality we had been waiting for all evening: a directness, a naked honesty in response and in the

who patrol the broadwalk with their huge radios, beating up all who cross their path. *The Rink* got a roaring from the New York reviewers (including our own Holly Hill), but so far as its location goes - embodied in Peter Larkin's Roundhouse-like set with monumental and midlevelled precision - amounts to a genuine sign of the times.

In a much grosser form, the same sign appears in Harvey Fierstein's *Spookhouse* (Playhouse 91), a story of blighted parenthood featuring a mother who refuses to let her son into the house (as it happens, he has raped and killed an eight-year-old girl). One can only say that he is better off out of it. Well before the show begins we have made the acquaintance of his brother Maxie, a chair-bound ghoul who responds to questions by letting off smoke signals; and, with the arrival of his fortune-telling parent, the house proves to have been slotted into a fairground folly.

As in *The Rink*, business is none too brisk, and the proprietress has time for prolonged sessions with the young social worker whose pleas on behalf of the murderous Wayne meet with her stonewalling refusals which can be summarized in one line: "You've got Mary Poppins up your yinyang."



Style counsel: Antoine Sibley and David Wall

Neither Sibley nor her Solor, David Wall, easily command any longer the bravura demanded of their roles, but both have an understanding of the classic manner and its dramatic implications, elegantly displayed. The torch they hand to their successors is a bright one.

John Percival

Jazz

which is the same small, pure, carefully rounded sound, based on that of Miles Davis, as it was in his heyday.

Since his memorable tour last year with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, Rogers's technique has also been reshaped: his ideas unfurled in London this week without a fumble or a fluff.

Shank, on the other hand, has moved with the times. Blue jeans, longish greying hair and an aggressive stance are reflected in the slightly dishevelled urgency with which he now plays the alto saxophone. His detached, ethereal tone of old is replaced by fierce vocalizations, and a telling sense of contrast.

The wonder is that such apparently disparate colleagues still sounded good together, whether on Tiny Kahn's fast

Concert

telling which is there to be found, albeit through other manners and other masks, in Mozart as much as Mahler, in Fauré as in Finzi.

Dame Janet had opened her recital, accompanied by Geoffrey Parsons, with Haydn's *Scena di Benvenuto*, an eighteenth-century classical freeze perfectly observed and proportioned, from the minutely and affecting graded tone levels of the first three phrases of recitative, to the central aria's delicate and elegant intimacy. But in the little Mozart canzonetti and ariette which followed, art - without its bolder stylistic frame - wavered dangerously on the borders of artifice.

Hilary Finch

comes as a big surprise. By repute, Mr Fierstein and Jerry Herman have put the French original under glass and trained it up into an ultimate exotic bloom, with chorus boys transplanted into gish-like perfection for the benefit of audiences of voyeuristic straight. The chorus of Cagelles do indeed leave the Rockettes out in the cold; but, side by side with them, we get the story of Georges and Albin - an old couple undergoing the familiar toils of married love in the context of running a homosexual night club.

Traditionally, this is an obsessive and inflammatory topic in New York, whence a steady stream of dreadful plays on the gay life has been issuing for many a long year. With luck, Mr Fierstein will put an end to them; at least, he is the first American playwright known to me who writes from an acknowledged homosexual viewpoint without pretending that homosexuals are the same as everybody else.

Television

Deference of the realm

"Counter Revolution" was the title of this week's interesting edition of *All Our Working Lives* (BBC2), for a circular process closely linked to changes in the class system, the label seemed particularly apt.

Once upon a time, assistants in city shops worked from dawn till long past dusk: now Ugandan Asians do so, selling in their turn that eternally prized commodity, time. For Oswald Mosley, small shopkeepers meant votes: not so for his spiritual successors. Bourne and Hollingworth have gone. Mothercare and Habitat have inherited the earth, empires rise and fall.

Once upon a time, shop assistants weighed and measured everything that passed through their hands. "I wasn't allowed to serve anybody for a year - I had to observe how it was done", said a proudly nostalgic lady from Hull.

Deference was a commodity. A television in a clothes shop recalled the punctiliousness with which the elite of Wigan were treated: if they wanted something by three in the afternoon, no matter how complicated, they got it - and on three months' credit with no interest.

Snobbery: a former Marks and Spencer manager told of running around behind Queen Mary pinning "as purchased by HM the Queen" on everything she had chosen. Showmanship: peace competitions on the roof of Selfridges in the expansionist

Michael Church

Radio

A slow haul to the top

If I remember correctly, a Big Dipper ride opens with a slightly laborious pull up a steep slope; only after that do you get the full flavour of the experience. Radio 4's *Rollercoaster* on Thursday morning is not dissimilar. For the first half hour or so, two or three guests natter with Richard Baker. This week's topic, forgery, had its moments, but on three previous occasions, I have found myself wishing the natters would shut up and the programme get on with the main business.

It has managed to win me over, I suspect, by turning in at least one item which proved less awful than expected. Laurie Taylor on "modern manners", I thought: that's going to freeze the smile on my face. I did not count on Vic Lewis-Smith shewing it out. But they make an engaging pair as they proffer advice on eating spaghetti or on the correct way to behave in a disco, with the slightly tentative earnestness of two recent escapees from a home for the bewildered.

The rest of the morning's standard items fall on either side of its two fixed points: *Morning Story*, and a highly non-liturgical, resolutely topical *Act of Worship* - although the latter (and much else) vanished in the shortened Maundy

David Wade

Stretch out this Sunday.

Tomorrow is a big event for The Sunday Times. We're launching a new style Magazine that has a much larger page area than before and a glossy cover on heavier paper to make it easier to read and a pleasure to keep.

The increased page size provides room for a new leisure section covering many aspects of our daily lives: motoring; travel; gardening; home computers; sports; food; wine; penetrating consumer tests; the latest in fashion and beauty; lively profiles.

The new Sunday Times Magazine has the space to bring you bigger features. Tomorrow, for example, the Magazine contains the world exclusive on the Eskimo baby, perfectly preserved in ice 500 years ago; the launch of the eight week ABC Diet and Bodyplan and the first of three pullout booklets called 'Living with the Computer.' And in the newspaper all the usual features plus a special review section on sex and marriage in the Eighties. Pick up your copy of The Sunday Times tomorrow - a unique combination of newspaper and new-style magazine with much more breadth and depth.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

No other quality newspaper can stretch you so far

SPORTING DIARY

Hooliganism in history

The Chelsea-supporting morons - almost a tautology - who staged one of their usual riots at Portsmouth last Tuesday are part of a tradition. This fact comes to light thanks to three researchers at Leicester University who are involved in a three-year study of football hooliganism, and who have just released some of their findings.

They tell us that football violence was a problem in the 1890s. A pitch invasion after Loughborough had scored at Blackburn against Sheffield Wednesday was broken up "by the solid endeavours of the police and military". The *Leicester Mercury* reported. In the same year, a referee had to flee the ground by cab, pursued by a stone-throwing mob. In 1885, the entire Preston team was attacked and "several aerated water bottles were hurled into the crowd and smashed, regardless of the consequences". Rather surprisingly, supporters used whisky to start a fire at a Rangers v Celtic cup final in 1909.

In heartening contrast, the letters are still arriving at Plymouth, from such people as motorway service station managers, praising the Plymouth Argyle supporters, after 20,000 of them went to Villa Park for their FA Cup semi-final against Watford the other week. There was not one arrest at the ground. I even saw rival supporters shaking hands. Wouldn't it be nice to have Plymouth instead of Chelsea promoted to the first division.

Alive and kicking

The best footballers never give up. Tommy Robson nearly got to Wembley in 1966 when he was with Chelsea, but they lost in the FA semi-final. But today Tommy makes it at last, aged 39 and playing for the United Counties League side, Stamford. He faces the might of the Essex Senior League side, Stansfeld, in the FA Vase final at Wembley this afternoon.

Fever pitch

I am now utterly convinced that the Arsenal caretaker-manager, Don Howe, will get the job on a permanent basis, after a remark last week which encapsulates the spirit that will be forever Arsenal. Arsenal beat their deadly rivals Spurs, 3-2, and Howe summed up: "I told the players it was a good win - but that they made it too exciting." Attaboy, Don.

● The tender plant of Welsh cricket has never been famous for the luxuriance of its blooms, but it is unkind of Glamorgan's new sponsors to emphasize this fact. On the redesigned sweater, the Glamorgan daffodil emblem has been reduced to half its size.

Distaff end

There are plenty of cricket buffs who find women's cricket enough to drive them to drink - among them, it seems, Leicester magistrates. Leicestershire recently sought permission to run three all-day bars at their Grace Road ground. The application was refused - except for a local club final, the match against the West Indies, and the women's Test against New Zealand.

Pace setters

The annual London Marathon is again set to bore us into inertia through its sheer enthusiasm, but there might be solace in wondering how many of our rulers will collapse en route. Four MPs have entered, with Jonathan Aitken, a perky 41, the oldest of the bunch. The fastest is likely to be Matthew Parris, hoping to break 2hr 35min, which is frightfully quick. Colin Moynihan, an Olympic medal-winning cox, and Gary Waller, make up the bunch. All four fleet-footed politicians are Tories. It must prove something.

● Let us salute a new world record for Britain, and scored by a lady who has been British for even longer than Zola Budd. V. Cherri-man swam the 400 metres in 8 min 9.29 sec to win the title and record in the 75 to 79-year-old category at the International Masters championship in New Zealand.

Crash course

American football is catching on rapidly in Britain - as a summer game. There are already two British leagues of American football, and needless to say, they are not speaking to each other. There are 43 teams altogether, including the Heathrow Jets and the Dublin Brewers; some even have equipment. These followers of the television-led boom are in danger of "playing the game for real, and discovering that it hurts rather a lot."

Simon Barnes



Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Foreign Office are under a clear duty to come up with imaginative new proposals to reform the Vienna Convention and the absolute diplomatic immunity enshrined in it. Libya has demonstrated that just as absolute power corrupts absolutely, so total diplomatic immunity corrupts totally the duty of foreign diplomats "to respect the laws and regulations of a host country".

Attention must be focused on the two worst articles of the Vienna Convention - Articles 22 and 27. Under the first of these, foreign embassies are regarded as "inviolable". Article 27 simply states that "the diplomatic bag shall not be opened or detained".

While total diplomatic immunity under these two articles needs radical rethinking, the absolute diplomatic immunity for embassy staff must be retained, so that British and other diplomats are not subjected to the indignities and atrocities of laws which, in repressive countries such as the Soviet Union or the military dictatorships of South America, are primarily designed to keep a regime or dictator in power.

The absolute immunity afforded under these two articles must now be brought under a neutral, but higher, jurisdiction such as the International Court at The Hague. But until they are amended to make embassies and diplomatic bags

Giving the diplomatic rules some teeth

subject to a right of search under an order of the International Court, it will be all too easy for Colonel Gaddafi and other dictators to claim that their embassies are "inviolable" and if we search their embassy or diplomatic bag they will search ours - a euphemism for the kind of attack which the British Embassy in Peking suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

Where, therefore, a host country has firm evidence that a country such as Libya is breaching international laws, it must be made possible for it to apply to the court at The Hague for a warrant to search either the embassy or a particular diplomatic bag. If satisfied that a prima facie case had been made out, the court would order the offending country, such as Libya, to grant access to its embassy or diplomatic bag. United Nations legal observers attached to the court would supervise the search. At the same time, the court could order that a similar number of UN legal observers

should be seconded to the British Embassy in Tripoli to help guarantee a degree of fair play while the embassy or diplomatic bag was being searched over here.

Such measures are of course designed to be preventive rather than punitive, but to ensure their effectiveness careful consideration must be given to arming the court at The Hague with new powers which would make countries - including the United States - that much more careful before refusing to submit to the jurisdiction of the court and then failing to comply with the court's decision in contravention of Article 94 of the UN Charter.

To that end consideration should be given to empowering the court to make a direct order suspending a country from the UN while it remained in breach of the court's ruling. At present, Article 94(2) of the UN Charter merely allows an aggrieved party to refer a decision of the court to the Security Council for "measures to be taken to give effect

to the judgment". But this is clearly unsatisfactory in that it subordinates the court to the political wheeling and dealing of the Security Council - rather like making a decision of the House of Lords subject to ratification by the Cabinet before it can be implemented.

Not only should the International Court be armed with greater powers to order suspension from the UN until a country had purged its contempt, but it should also have the power to order that a country with a bad diplomatic record must lodge a monetary bond with the court as security against good diplomatic behaviour under the Vienna Convention. This would be a precondition for allowing certain countries to set up, or continue to run, embassies in host countries. If a country then proceeded to violate the convention an action could be brought against it for the forfeiture of the whole or a part of the bond.

Until the Foreign Office and the International Law Commission at the United Nations begin to think along new lines such as these, the Vienna Convention will remain little more than a voluntary code. It is an unhappy base for a set of legal rights and remedies which depend for their efficacy on the ability of a wronged party to seek and obtain redress from a higher authority. To that extent, while the Convention may be a practical reality it will remain little more than a legal fiction.

Alastair Brett

Simon Blow on the Lyttelton/Hart-Davis correspondence

Dying art of the long-range chat

What has become of the writing of letters? Who today sets down his thoughts on paper to his friends, rather than pick up a telephone? Distance, as well as such delicate matters as death or the importunity of creditors, may still encourage letter-writing, but otherwise do we unjustly neglect its advantages? In not so faraway times people wrote to one another almost daily, for it was the recognized manner of communication at a distance. And also it was found that letters could wield so many prized weapons of the English language, not least understatement and irony.

Henry James, a prolific letter-writer, would resort to letters to ironies that could never have served him so well in direct conversation. For in letters he discovered he could "hide quite wonderfully" - as he might have put it - from any clear commitment. Writing to a woman acquaintance who had dedicated a rather bad novel to him, he could reply: "I regard *Miss Brown* as a most interesting and (if the word didn't sound so patronizing I should say promising) experiment. It has in this age of thinnest levity and clapping the signal merit of being serious. Write another novel. You owe it to yourself, and to me..."

But if an advantage of the letter is the disguise of true feelings, equally it can act as the best expression of strongest feelings. Sometimes such letters have become works of art. John Keats's tender, sad love letters to Fanny Brawne or, on a more intentionally dramatic level, Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis*. Wilde's long letter of accusation and remorse to Lord Alfred Douglas has a poignancy which is only heightened by the grimness of the place to which his association with Douglas has led him. Whether Wilde so planned it or not, *De Profundis* rises above its immediate purpose to become a classic statement about the beloved's act of betrayal. Its effect could not have been achieved in another form.

Samuel Richardson's three novels, *Pamela*, *Clarissa*, and *Sir Charles Grandison* were all written as letters - a fictional device still practised. To write a novel in the form of letters has appeal because it makes the content appear more personal and therefore more authentic. But as a result, the role of letter-writing has grown hard to define. Is it purely an amateur pursuit carried on by great-aunts from seaside villas, or does it belong with serious literature? The answer is that letters belong in both places, but rightly used they become literature.

The civilizing effects of the letter is brought home to us by Sir Rupert Hart-Davis's six-volume correspondence with George Lyttelton, a former housemaster at Eton. The sixth volume was published this week and concludes the exchange. For what started off as a weekly venture to activate the mind of a retired schoolmaster and distract a busy London publisher from the chores of the office, has been received as a reminder that we do need the calm deliberation of the epistle as a mode of expression.

With talk of literary people, their likes and dislikes of novels, a shared love of cricket, and incidents which have amused them, the tone is always immensely well-mannered. Here is no slipping into self-indulgence, no advertisement of weak-



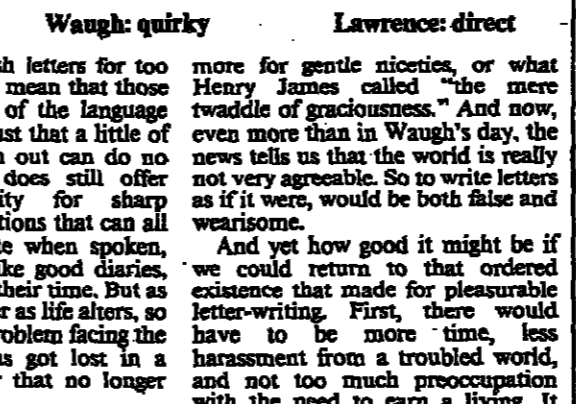
Hart-Davis (left) and Lyttelton: as though they were sitting by a club fireside



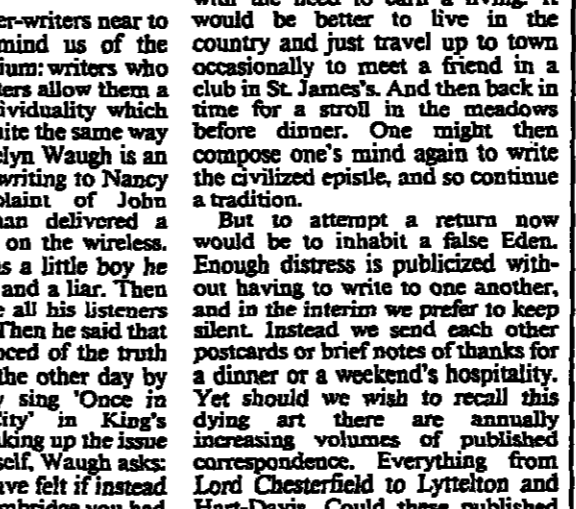
Wilde: dramatic



James: irony



Waugh: quirky



Lawrence: direct

nesses. It is all good fireside chat, as if from a London club, but instead put down on paper at their respective country retreats.

Thus Lyttelton writes from Suffolk: "Have you passed The Strand Theatre recently, outside which the play is blundered as 'Delightful, bawdy, wonderful, amoral, indecent?' A direct result, as it seems to fuddy-duddy like me, of the *Chatterley* verdict." And Hart-Davis, from Oxfordshire, tells of his current reading: "I'm enjoying Wells and Gissing, especially the former. I think I have read every book he wrote, and enjoyed them all. But how furious he always was when he was asked for more *Polly* and less *Cissoid*. But he could be unparagonable, eg the way he treated old Henry James."

Both Lyttelton and Hart-Davis are fluent and engaging, and the letters make their point, but I do wonder, if letter-writing is to have a case today, whether it should be so self-effacing. In search of contrast I turned to D. H. Lawrence. He writes to Bertrand Russell: "I didn't like your letter. What's the good of living as you do, anyway. I don't believe your lectures are good. They are nearly over, aren't they? ... Do stop working & writing altogether and become a creature instead of a mechanical instrument. Do for heavens sake be a baby, and not a savant any more."

If letters are to survive, they must reflect the world we live in. Lyttelton and Hart-Davis would reel from Lawrence's directness, but English reserve and manners can be restrictive. They can carry an aloofness which evades, and they

have dogged English letters for too long. This does not mean that those treasured weapons of the language are valueless, but just that a little of letting oneself open out can do no harm. The letter does still offer infinite opportunity for sharp insights and perceptions that can all too easily evaporate when spoken, and good letters, like good diaries, can be a portrait of their time. But as styles of writing alter as life alters, so must the letter. A problem facing the letter is that it has got lost in a belated backwater that no longer has any relevance.

But there are letter-writers near to hand who can remind us of the vitality of the medium: writers who have found that letters allow them a quirkiness and individuality which cannot surface in quite the same way in other media. Evelyn Waugh is an example. Take his writing to Nancy Mitford in complaint of John Bejerman: "Bejerman delivered a Christmas message on the wireless. First he said that as a little boy he had been a coward and a liar. Then he said he was sure all his listeners had been the same. Then he said that he had been convinced of the truth of the incarnation the other day by hearing a choirboy sing 'Once in Royal David's City' in King's College Chapel." Taking up the issue with Bejerman himself, Waugh asks: "How would you have felt if instead of a choir boy at Cambridge you had heard a muzzelin in Jaffa?"

The scerbility of Waugh is the yardstick for those who might feel inclined to return to letter writing. He is funny, informative, angry, bitter and bellicose. We feel life in his letters. There is no place any

more for gentle niceties, or what Henry James called "the mere twaddle of graciousness." And now, even more than in Waugh's day, the news tells us that the world is really not very agreeable. So to write letters as if it were, would be both false and wearisome.

And yet how good it might be if we could return to that ordered existence that made for pleasurable letter-writing. First, there would have to be more time, less harassment from a troubled world, and not too much preoccupation with the need to earn a living. It would be better to live in the country and just travel up to town occasionally to meet a friend in a club in St. James's. And then back in time for a stroll in the meadows before dinner. One might then compose one's mind again to write the civilized epistle, and so continue a tradition.

But to attempt a return now would be to inhabit a false Eden. Enough distress is publicized without having to write to one another, and in the interim we prefer to keep silent. Instead we send each other postcards or brief notes of thanks for a dinner or a weekend's hospitality. Yet should we wish to recall this dying art there are annually increasing volumes of published correspondence. Everything from Lord Chesterfield to Lyttelton and Hart-Davis. Could these published volumes be, in fact, the obituary notice of the letter?

The Lyttelton-Hart-Davis letters vol. 6, edited by Rupert Hart-Davis, was published this week by John Murray (£13.50).

not certain, but it is widely assumed that the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere due to the combustion of fossil fuels is playing an important part. Whatever the explanation, the effect on the weather will not be a simple warming across the board, but could be extremely complex.

One theory is that a warmer climate could be more variable. This would manifest itself in more frequent blocking conditions with their attendant heat waves or cold spells. Indeed the hot summers in Europe in 1975, '76 and '83, plus the frequent cold winters in the United States since 1977, and the extraordinary El Niño in the tropical Pacific in 1982/3 could be regarded as evidence of such a trend.

All in all, in spite of advances in meteorology and improved weather forecasting up to a week ahead, we are a long way from explaining longer term fluctuations. Moreover, if the current global warming continues, we will enter territory uncharted in historic records and be flying blind.

William Burroughs

Woodrow Wyatt

Why can't Tiny be a Beaver?

Lord Beaverbrook was asked by the Royal Commission on the Press in 1948 what his main purpose was in running his papers. He replied: "I run the papers purely for propaganda and with no other purpose." In today's conditions this honourable declaration of aims would have prevented him from buying the *Daily Express*. That would have been bad for the press and for journalism.

It is a recent and curious doctrine that owners should not be allowed to determine the contents of their newspapers. The prevailing ethos is that they may pay the bills, collect the advertising and spend money on promoting the publication, and that is all.

Thus will the freedom of the press be preserved, it is thought. But whose freedom? Why should the editor's views be more sacred than those of the proprietor? Any editor who worked for Beaverbrook knew that either he ran his paper the Beaverbrook way, or he did not run it at all. He was not obliged to work for Beaverbrook and would have been foolish to do so if he found Beaverbrook's views so distasteful that he was not prepared to put them across.

Michael Foot had no trouble with his conscience when he edited the *Evening Standard*. Editing a newspaper is a job: it helps if you share the views of your employer but it is not essential. Successful Beaverbrook editors like Beverley Baxter and Arthur Christiansen were in tune with the proprietor, doubtless having their conflicts but sorting them out amicably.

Most great newspapers are the result of one individual with strong views on policy and presentation having ultimate control, whether it be Scott of the *Guardian*, H. E. Bartholomew of the *Mirror*, Northcliffe or Rothermere.

There is no threat to the freedom of the press in this. It is the freedom of the readers to choose that decides whether a newspaper will survive.

Would it matter to the freedom of the press if Mr Rowland or Mr Maxwell were able to tell the editor of *The Observer* what to do in his newspaper? Not at all. If the proprietor peddled lies on his own, they would vanish and there would be no *Observer*. That is the sanction which prevents people with big money at stake from going too far.

If Mr Rowland or Mr Maxwell had matter inserted to help their other business interests, we would know at once: journalists resigning from the paper would broadcast the news; there would be informants still working on the paper who would gladly supply *Private Eye* and various other media with all the details; the reputation of *The Observer* for reliable reporting would be gone, to the detriment of the investment in it.

It would be sad to see *The Observer* become unviable through loss of readers, but it would not affect the freedom of the press. There are many other places to say everything that is said in the *Observer*. The attempt to regulate the

relations between editor and proprietor through government agency must fail. It is a relationship which should be governed by common sense and not by a set of written rules. A proprietor dissatisfied with his editor will do his best to get round the rules. An editor dissatisfied with his proprietor will use the rules to protect his right of free expression over that of the proprietor. Not a happy marriage; and the child will suffer.

At the *Mirror* Group, editors know that it would be unacceptable for them to go outside the traditions of their publication. If one of them decided to support the *Militant Tendency*, or the *National Front*, or possibly even Mrs Thatcher, he would expect to be dismissed. He would not be able to plead any right of freedom as editor. That is as it should be.

Now we have the illogical situation in which some newspaper proprietors are bound by commitments to government or its agencies to respect the rights of editors to say anything they like, and to appoint any journalists they like, whereas other proprietors have no such obligation. This is because the proprietors forced to act under these unnatural restrictions were the only ones who could be found at the time to save the newspapers concerned from oblivion.

That, it seems, was to be honour enough. Those responsible for getting their papers into a mess persuaded the government that the papers had some peculiar sanctity established by the previous owners which must be preserved after they had gone: a power to rule from beyond the grave which would be laughed at in any other transaction.

Why should it be accepted as a truism that an editor has better judgement than a proprietor in how to appeal to the market in which his paper sells? Tying shackles on proprietors ossifies newspapers and diminishes their freedom to change and adapt, which can lead to their death.

There may be an argument for preventing the same proprietor acquiring too much of the press. That is a matter for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But a purchase once having been allowed, it is not the province of the commission, or of government, to lay down conditions on which the new proprietor should be allowed to conduct his business. All such regulations should be terminated: they cause more damage than good, as can be seen at *The Observer*, where a proprietor who dislikes his own product is understandably reluctant to finance it.

To perpetuate old newspapers as though they were protected historical monuments about which nothing is to be changed, not even the position of the furniture, is ridiculous. Proprietors should be allowed to employ editors they can get on with, and editors should remain free to choose proprietors whose general approach they share - without expending a fortune on the press, relying on their own intelligence to steer them away from actions which would damage the paper, the proprietor and the editor.

Roy Strong

They're off - to a stately stagger

I write this on April 23, St George's Day, and his ensign - red cross on a white ground - flutters from many a local parish flagpole, reflecting Anglican loyalty to a saint demoted by the Church of Rome. In the past, this was the day of the Garter procession when the sovereign, regardless of where he resided, passed in gorgeous cavalcade attended by his knights through the palace courtyard to the Chapel Royal. In Tudor times this was a great public event which it remained until Charles I, who was what 1066 and *All That* would categorize as a "Bad Thing", moved it to Windsor.

Now the event remains sadly and permanently divorced from the day and its historic context, living on as a spectacle to launch Ascot week. I have only seen the Garter procession twice. Once from the roof of the Round Tower as I rushed from one side to the other as the stately procession meandered its way down to St George's Chapel. A second time more grandly from the eaves of what Lord Charteris's house thronged with *le monde* and with strawberries for tea. Knights of the Garter tend to be advanced in years and my main memory consists of a blast of wind which seemed to blow most of them over to an almost impossible angle so that I thought they would all topple over like the pack of cards in *Alice in Wonderland*. As the procession returned uphill there were those who were gathered into limousines in case they fell by the wayside.

Like Lord Bute in the eighteenth century, it is an advantage to have good legs to be a Garter Knight. In full evening dress they wear their Garter with knee breeches and black silk stockings. I once glimpsed the new Lord Wilson cutting a fetching figure thus attired.

But how extraordinary it is that after 600 years this ceremony still exerts its potent spell as a manifestation of royalist chivalry flooding down the centuries. That we can still see pass before us a cavalcade that inspired the brush of Van Dyck and the pencil of Lely. Their visions inevitably romanticized the original, but how fascinating it is that in revamped terms the crown's use of chivalry remains unchanged in its objective of uniting divergent viewpoints into a single homage to a

reine. For under these velvet robes and beplumed hats stride the unlikely figures, not only of Lord Wilson, but Lord Drogheda, Lord Longford and the Duke of Grafton to name but four. As those who have held office as prime minister twice are usually accorded the honour, one might expect to see Mrs Thatcher join this loyal band for which ladies wear the garter on their arm.

Besides Garter glories, April 23 calls to mind Shakespeare's birthday. There is still something wonderful about a second procession, that to Holy Trinity, Stratford-on-Avon. Twenty years ago it was the four hundredth anniversary of his birth and I walked in that procession clutching a bouquet of sweet herbs - rosemary and thyme and sage - a poet's nosegay. By the time I reached the church the chancel was piled high with flowers, cascades of bloom dappled with sunlight and the organ blazied forth in glory.

That was the year of the great Shakespeare Exhibition which began with such high hopes and ended in disaster. The portraits and documents fell under my aegis and as I sat down next to some African dignitary at the launching luncheon a note was passed to me. Unfolding it I read: "We've lost Shakespeare's will." That nearly ruined that particular April 23.

It was the old Duke of Newcastle who told Charles II at the Restoration that "ceremony though it is nothing in itself yet it doth everything". In many ways this is very true and the British have a genius for it, largely because there has been no disruption to the tradition since the seventeenth century. But it is only so when ritual is a true expression of ideals and beliefs shared by both actors and onlookers. When the two part company it is reduced to an empty charade. It is such a parting of the ways that those who take part in such spectacles must forever guard against. "For what is a King," Newcastle went on to say, "more than a subject but for ceremony and order. When that fails him he's ruined."

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

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THE COMPANY THEY KEEP

It is hard for anyone who has not been down a coalmine to appreciate why the experience, particularly on a daily basis, so often makes miners feel like men apart from the rest of society. There is something totally pre-emptive about work down the mine. It results in many miners, if not their wives, being less susceptible to normal economic influences than other citizens engaged in more familiar and visible forms of work.

The successful management of coalfields thus calls for sensitivity and skill of a higher order than, say, that required for a supermarket. That is particularly so during periods of prolonged retrenchment such as the National Coal Board is undergoing. The NCB has shown such skills at every level of management; and Mr. Ian MacGregor, in spite of many attempts to portray him as a politician's hatchet man, is clearly endowed with impressive qualities of industrial leadership.

Mr. MacGregor is there to make the NCB a vigorous forward-looking industrial enterprise in the highly competitive world of energy production. The economics of coal in the energy equation may appear uncomplicated, but his task is bedevilled by the emotions which attach not to coal itself as just one among several sources of energy available to this country, but to the idea of coalminers, as talismen of a particular type of society and culture which has great symbolic appeal to the Left.

It should be in everybody's interest to contain this emotional dimension so as not to aggravate the task of reconstruction in the coal industry. That is difficult enough already, as with all monolithic industries when afflicted with a changing economic environment. Yet the emotional attraction to the idea of the coalminer, rather than to coal, leads some people to romanticise the work of the coalminer, at the risk of perpetrating serious economic, and even moral fallacies, as Mr. Enoch Powell rightly pointed out yesterday in his criticism of the Archbishop of York's well-intentioned but ill-considered plea to keep old pits open.

It leads others to exploit the

coalminer for their own ends, which have less to do with the plight of coalminers at uneconomic pits, and more to do with broader political objectives in which the coalminer becomes so much cannon fodder in a fight for political power.

One would expect the Mineworkers' Union to fight for its members in order to mitigate the hard reality of closing down uneconomic pits and the strains of a shrinking workforce. It has done so not unsuccessfully, to judge by the unprecedentedly high redundancy terms on offer to miners - always hitherto on a voluntary basis - and the phasing of the run-down during both Labour and Conservative administrations.

That limited but important industrial and social task has now instead become an increasingly rancorous political issue, in which the Labour leadership, surely against its better judgment, has effectively joined forces with Mr. Scargill. Have Mr. Kinnoch and his colleagues been listening to Mr. Scargill since last year's election? He has consistently stated his intention to use the mineworkers as shock troops in a much wider war than the question of pithead economics; hence his impatience with the idea of a pithead ballot. And at every station along the line the Communists have been with him. It cannot be wise for the Labour leadership to keep such company.

Only two days after the election Mr. Scargill was telling the *Morning Star* that the trade unions would now have to take extra-parliamentary action against policy decisions of the elected government. "Arthur is right," commented the revolutionary paper *Socialist Action*. A week later the *Morning Star* endorsed statements by Mr. Scargill and his Communist vice-president, Mr. Mick McGahey, stating: "The miners... are in the firing line... We must all get ready to stand alongside them."

Mr. Scargill has made no secret of his view that the trade unions should use their muscle to acquire political power, regardless of electoral niceties. He warned the mineworkers that the fight against this Government's policies would have to take place

outside Parliament, and was warmly supported in this view by Mr. George Bolton, the Scottish NUM's vice-president and soon to be elected chairman of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

Before the Trades Union Congress last year the *Morning Star* interviewed Mr. Scargill and two leading trade unionists who are official members of the Communist Party, Mr. Ken Gill and Mr. Ben Rubner. Mr. Scargill there warned against the possibility of "class collaboration" which would be involved in any contact with the Government. His campaign has been fully orchestrated by Communist Party spokesmen in support, distributing 60,000 leaflets and giving repeated endorsements in the columns of the *Morning Star*. It was in that newspaper on March 28 that Mr. Scargill spelt out his view of the class war which he hopes to wage on the British people, in which, "every sinner in every factory, office, dole queue, docks, railway, plant and mill will need to be strained to the maximum. Waiting in the wings are four million unemployed whose numbers could swell the picket line at any time. What is urgently needed is the rapid and total mobilization of the trade union and labour movements to take positive advantage of a unique opportunity to defend our class and roll back the machinery of oppression, exploitation and deep-seated human misery."

By associating his Party so directly with the miners' struggle; by laying more emphasis on allegations against the police than in criticising the violence of flying pickets; by ordering a Labour Party levy for mineworkers before any sign of a strike ballot, thus making it clear which way he hopes or expects the ballot to go; and by a reluctance to hear what the hard Left and the Communists are saying and then to stand out against them, Mr. Kinnoch and his colleagues have been skillfully manoeuvred into following the militants rather than leading the party away from militancy. They now share a platform with the Communists though that surely cannot have been what they intended. Is there a Leader in the House to get them off it?

THE UNIONISTS' PENNYWORTH

Fear has helped to propel the Dublin forum towards a conclusion which was being given its finishing touches yesterday - fear that the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the vehicle of "constitutional nationalism" in Northern Ireland, may shortly be eclipsed at the polls by Sinn Féin offering hard-driving community politics, marxist millenarianism, and general support for the "armed struggle" to get the British presence out of Ireland.

The same fear has touched some Unionists in the North. Mr. Frank Millar, secretary of the Ulster Unionist party, was recently advising his members not needlessly to compound the SDLP's difficulties and to speak advisedly, however firmly, about matters arising from the forum report, since the SDLP's replacement by Sinn Féin as the majority party on the nationalist side would herald the start of Northern Ireland's ultimate nightmare. And now his party's position paper on administrative devolution, which it describes as the way forward for Northern Ireland, extends an olive-branch of sorts to the SDLP.

Both communities in Northern Ireland, the document says, must realize that their problems will have to be solved and their future prospect provided for within the Northern Ireland context. (It is of course the contention of the SDLP, and will be strenuously argued in the forum report, that the problems of the Province are incapable of solution within that context.) "This will require a mutual recognition of each other's hopes

and fears. Only rights can be guaranteed, not aspirations, but it is the responsibility of the majority to persuade the minority that the Province is also theirs." If that last sentiment had been held and acted upon by the Ulster Unionist party fifty, thirty, fifteen years ago, the spilling of much blood and many tears might have been averted.

The offer is for cooperation in an Ulster assembly transformed into a top-tier local government council run on normal committee lines. It is suggested, optimistically, that with the constitutional issue left on one side local administration could go forward without being bedevilled by it, and that a multiplicity of parties would lead to shifting alliances and the avoidance of a permanent minority. A bill of rights, some adaptation of the European convention, would flank these arrangements; and even an "Irish dimension" is contemplated, but only if redefined to mean the fostering and state funding of "distinctively Irish cultural activities".

The plan has the merit of postulating joint participation in government in a form and at a level below the point at which it becomes inherently impossible by reason of fractured allegiance. It also has the administrative merit of filling the Macrory gap. Sir Patrick Macrory reviewed local government in the Province in 1970 and recommended the transfer of the more important functions to the elected body at Stormont. The change had no sooner been made than the

elected body at Stormont was done away with, leaving these functions to civil servants and junior ministers sent over from Westminster, also leaving a dearth of employment for local politicians and no one on the spot for the citizen to chivy.

However the plan as presented is thin gruel for a nationalist party, especially one which has tasted briefly the fruit of the Sunningdale conference, which has long demanded an Irish dimension of a constitutional and not merely cultural kind, and which has Sinn Féin breathing down its neck. It is indeed as a Province firmly anchored to the United Kingdom that Northern Ireland must make its foreseeable future. But the price for conciliation has risen as intransigence has prolonged itself.

The structures and gestures now advanced by the Unionist party do not amount to a workable alternative to the status quo. Qualified political autonomy on a provincial basis even in the sphere of local government can be resumed in Northern Ireland only with some more solid recognition of the Irish (nationalist) identity of two fifths of the people, and only if the devices adopted for expressing that identity do not and do not appear to call in question the Province's constitutional anchorage in the United Kingdom for so long as that is the will of the majority. Whether such devices exist or can be invented is something on which the report of the Dublin forum may have light to shed.

The Shah's Iran

From Mr David Misson

Sir, It was refreshing, and moving, to read Sir Anthony Parsons' open and honest account of his role in the last days of the Shah's Iran (features, April 16, 17 and 18).

As one of those hidden advisers responsible for starting and developing the Shah's external propaganda campaign in the years just after his coronation, I was responsible for projecting an image of impregnable internal stability, which could now be said to have boomeranged.

One angle which we used to play for all it was worth was the so-called tradition of a direct relationship between Emperor and people, in contrast to the many layers of European feudalism. Another was that the only Iranian rulers ever to lose their thrones were those who paid insufficient attention to defence - which, where the Shah was concerned, was plainly not the case.

Like Sir Anthony, we disregarded (except that we did so deliberately) the lessons to be learned from more recent Iranian history.

Nevertheless, for all our and our client's hyperbole, there is an astonishingly powerful grassroots tradition of, and preference for, kingship in Iran, which no mere mullah can ever hope to satisfy. I for one would not be surprised if another Shah were to appear in Iran within the next decade.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID MISSION,

28 Edna Street, SW11.

April 19.

Idea for escape

From Mr James Patrick

Sir, Hardly a day passes without the report of a fire tragedy somewhere in the country. Frequently it involves members of a family trapped in an upstairs bedroom with their only escape via a window placed anything

from 14 to 40 feet from the ground. To jump would often cause serious injury from fractures of the legs or spine.

It surprises me that so few people keep a rope ready beneath the bed. Would it not be desirable to initiate a campaign for every household at risk to invest in such a cheap insurance?

Perhaps a rope-making firm could put on the market a suitable rope and the fire service issue instructions as to the right anchorage point, etc. Possibly a spliced loop at the free end would facilitate speedy lowering of a child to the ground.

Seat belts in cars are now compulsory; should not safety fire-escape ropes have at least a Home Office recommendation?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PATRICK,
Ardfert,
by Lochgilphead,
Argyll,
April 20.

Civil liberties and the extreme right

From Mr Martin Ennals

Sir, The NCCL members who have decided that advice should not be given to the National Front or other groups have fallen for the oldest trick in politics. The racists of the right do not need advice from Larry Gostin and his colleagues except as a gimmick.

The Young Conservatives gave convincing proof of the infiltration by the extreme right into the mainstream of Conservative party politics. Lord Scarman and, more recently, the Policy Studies Institute have both remarked upon the incidence of racism and racist attitudes within the police.

With friends in such places why would racists need help from their enemies within the NCCL? The result of their tactic is a division within the NCCL membership and a distraction of attention from the very real civil liberty issues which exist throughout our society, including racism in high places.

In the early 60s the NCCL campaigned in concert with many national, local, religious, community, political and black groups for new and effective legislation against racial discrimination and racial incitement. What has happened since then is that while some laws exist they are not effectively enforced. In the inner city areas in particular, racial attacks continue and racial harassment is constant yet the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions have singularly failed to bring those responsible to account.

What is needed now is a concerted approach by all those who value civil liberties. The NCCL has neither the political will nor the resources to institute a screening procedure for either its membership or its clients. The very debate detracts from the immediacy of the real issues.

As doyen of the tribe of ex-general secretaries of the NCCL, may I appeal to all protagonists to get back to work?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ENNALS
157 Southwood Lane, N6,
April 26

Alien rights

From Mr John Handoll

Sir, In his letter (April 25) Mr J. A. Lane has suggested, with remarkable candour, that "aliens" should not be permitted to demonstrate in British streets. This, although British nationals will continue to be entitled to do so, presumably without behaving "with the decorum normally expected of guests."

Granted that the prospect of violence along recent lines causes great concern; granted, too, that there may have to be limits placed on the conduct of even peaceful demonstrations in particular cases: these factors, together with the question of the cost of a police presence, apply to all demonstrators, irrespective of nationality.

Leaving aside the question of the discriminatory double standards, in my view plain in Mr Lane's letter, the logic of his approach seems to be that if an "alien" cannot safely demonstrate in his own country (because of a repressive system) then he should not be able to do so elsewhere, unless his host state is stupid enough to let him. This would be a further tragedy for the oppressed.

Even this country were to operate a repressive policy, I hope to goodness even Mr Lane would be able to demonstrate somewhere.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HANDOLL,
45 rue de Briot,
Brussels,
April 25.

From Mr Robert Milne-Tyte

Sir, Having, thanks to Libyans, been denied access for nearly two weeks to the St James's Square premises of the London Library and the Royal

Hess and the Jews

From the President of the Anglo-Jewish Association

Sir, Your description of Rudolf Hess reminds us of the lonely, pathetic Jews in our homes worldwide, without families, whom many of us still remember as the victims of the Holocaust. The GDR has made no realistic attempt at all to help those living outside their territory.

Yours faithfully,
CLEMENS N. NATHAN,
President,
Anglo-Jewish Association,
Woburn House (5th Floor),
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.
April 26.

Words and worship

From the Very Reverend Robert T. Holby

Sir, I write as one who agrees with the Archbishop of Canterbury that (particularly for certain groups he identifies, though also for others) "the poetry and music of the traditional liturgy can express for them the inexpressible since it does not have to pack itself into capsules of ideas."

I would also accept some of the positive arguments for the retention of the Prayer Book in the article by Roger Scruton (April 10) to which in his letter (April 18) Mr Simon Preston, the Organist of Westminster Abbey refers.

Mr Preston, however, accepts without question both the alleged facts and also the judgements stated in Mr Scruton's article - e.g. that the Church of England is "free to ignore completely the wishes of its congregation" (sic).

In connection with the Alternative Service Book Mr Scruton's strictures on the clergy, his insular presuppositions (as if the Anglican Communion did not exist) are, with

Dangers in plan to sell nurses' homes

From Mrs Patricia Spencer

Sir I am most disturbed to read (report, April 24) of the proposed selling of nurses' accommodation throughout the NHS. The nursing profession is quite unique because young girls at the age of 18 entering the profession for training are immediately put on the wards with the shift duties alongside their theoretical studies.

A nurse might come off a late night duty in a large city where it is quite undesirable and unsafe for her to make the journey home alone. The one safeguard for these young people was the hospital accommodation, where they could be safely transported to their duty.

I am appalled that such a decision might be taken - these dedicated girls who are caring for our sick deserve every consideration for their security in the performance of their duties. The first year of a university course is always spent in-hall for obvious reasons. These drastic changes can only escalate violence in our deserted city streets at night. Have we not a duty to our young?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA SPENCER,
St Martin's Farm,
Zeals,
Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society

Sir, Your front page report, "Sale of nurses' homes urged", based on the unpublished report to health ministers, indicates the continuing unsound foundations of the present Government's housing policies.

Trained nurses are paid on a scale from £4,787 to £5,094 per year. Yet the *Building Societies Association Bulletin* points out that the average annual income of first-time buyers is £9,019 and the average dwelling price paid by first-time buyers is £19,829.

Trained nurses with years of service will still only be able to obtain mortgages of some £15,000 (for first-time buyers) and a half times annual salary. House purchase is impossible for the vast majority of nurses, unless salaries are increased significantly.

It should be noted that the £5-a-week subsidy to NHS staff for housing is far less than owner-occu-

Institute for International Affairs. I have this morning found direct access to my Kensington home barred by a demonstration of Iranian outside the nearby Iranian consulate.

Doubtless, as a ratepayer, I shall be accorded the privilege of paying my share of the considerable police costs involved in these two operations - which the demonstrating foreigners will not be - but meantime I wish to express the strongest support for the view of Mr J. A. Lane (April 25) that aliens wishing to express opposition to their national governments should do so by means other than futile demonstrations.

The British Government must make that clear quite to everyone granted asylum in this country.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT MILNE-TYTE,
36 Stanford Road, W8,
April 26.

Full circle

From Brigadier M. S. Lush

Sir, On January 23, 1943, the Union Jack was raised over the Italian Government headquarters in Tripoli as General Montgomery took the surrender of the city from the Italian authorities and instructed me to administer Tripolitania.

Since then there has been an unbroken British presence, administrative or after independence, diplomatic, in Libya.

During and after this week-end the Italian flag will fly, in friendship, over the British Embassy in Tripoli. The silent torches of time.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE LUSH,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
April 26.

those who really suffered might from time to time be an example for others to do something about, but it should be seen in proportion to the suffering caused.

The Federal Republic of Germany has certainly tried to compensate the victims of Nazi persecution left alive whereas the GDR has made no realistic attempt at all to help those living outside their territory.

Yours faithfully,
CLEMENS N. NATHAN,
President,
Anglo-Jewish Association,
Woburn House (5th Floor),
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.
April 26.

other dubious generalisations, taken by Mr Preston as the ground for further censure of clergy, who, he declares, arrogantly impose in churches and cathedrals alike the ASB. He asserts that such imposition deters parents from presenting their sons for cathedral chorister-ships.

The reasons for the reduced number of candidates for voice trials succinctly made by the Headmaster of the Choir School of Westminster Cathedral (where Cranmer's incomprehensible liturgy is not in use) are sufficient (letter, December 27, 1983), though here our experience is of a modest increase. To Mr Hannigan's reasons might be added the genuine problem posed by the age of entry required by schools to which choristers subsequently proceed.

There are therefore two issues. While there are no doubt clergy in cathedrals and parishes who display imperious attitudes in their zeal to implement their liturgical preferences, the general strictures are not supported by the empirical evidence. Secondly, it is fantasy to suppose

Conserving our cricket heritage

From Sir Edward Ford

Sir, You are in receipt of many letters on the subject of conservation. May I add to the number by pleading with those engaged in the administration of so-called first-class cricket matches to do something to conserve the traditional quality of this part of the national sporting heritage?

The game as played by county and Test sides has become the preserve of fast bowlers. They have practically forced out of business their more skilful slower-paced comrades, who - especially in one day matches - find it difficult to get a place in these teams. They have slowed the game up intolerably by taking unnecessarily long runs.

When they despair of getting wickets by genuine skill, they attempt to terrorise batsmen (especially tail-enders), who make ungainly shots to protect themselves and often give chances to fieldsmen, who would not dare to stand so close to the bat without a helmet on their heads. They have added to the difficulties of umpiring and made it hard for a call of "no ball" to be uttered in time for the batsman to take advantage of it.

I make four suggestions for the restoration of the traditional game, still played in games of lesser importance by clubs, villages, etc. - in these so called first class matches.

1. A fine should be drawn (say) 20 yards behind the stumps at each end beyond which no bowler can go to start his run.

2. A line should be drawn across the middle of the pitch and any ball which pitches on the bowler's side of that line shall be a no ball and called as such by the umpire.

3. Helmets should be disallowed for fieldsmen and discouraged for batsmen.

4. The bowler should have both feet behind the popping crease when delivering the ball, and the no ball rule amended accordingly.

It would also do much to restore the dignity and enjoyment of the traditional first-class game if a measure of self-restraint in their behaviour were shown by both players and spectators.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
EDWARD FORD,
Canal House,
23 Bloomfield Road, W9,
April 26.

Mr Kinnoch's mantle

From Mr Leonard A. Jackson

Sir, Your Political Correspondent reported (April 14) that Mr Kinnoch had accused Mr MacGregor of wanting to starve the miners back to work. This is obviously not true and looks like an ill-thought-out attempt to evoke a 1926 mentality.

The closures would effect only four per cent, the redundancy terms are generous and the hardship experienced by the miner's family, quoted by Mr Kinnoch, arises directly from the fact that the husband is not working.

We would all be in the same boat if we walked out on our jobs. Nor does Mr Kinnoch condemn mass picketing, although the large police presence is manifestly due to the intimidation which preceded it.

To an outsider, the Coal Board's plan appears to promise a smaller but prosperous mining industry. Mr Kinnoch should be trying to convince the miners that they are being offered a good future, instead of lining up with Mr Scargill to lead them down a bleak road to diminished earnings and lost markets.

The mantle of statesmanship does not appear to set easily on the shoulders of the Leader of the Opposition.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. JACKSON,
Stable Cottage, 100, The Avenue,
Speldhurst Road,
Langton Green,
Kent.

Unfair daffodils

From Mrs E. Murray

Sir, With regard to Dr Croft's daffodils (April 23), I am surprised that he does not know the old Celtic legend in which the defenders of the marches, being attacked from the rear while facing the enemy, stood back to back and fought to the last man; their bereaved womenfolk planted daffodils on the site, and, ever since, daffodils planted in rows have grown back to back.

There is a reference to this in the *Green Book of Llanuriant* (*Cenrhinen Rhyfelwr*). The only thing to do is to confuse the daffodils by planting them in odd-shaped flowerbeds or at random all over the lawn.

Yours faithfully,
ELAINE MURRAY,
26 Greyfriars Gardens,
Wat Tyler Road,
Blackheath, SE10.

that parents are deterred from offering their sons (for the reasons stated) to the Church's ministry of music. Indeed, how could such negative evidence be obtained to justify so broad a conclusion?

I do not know whether Mr Preston would be able to sustain his viewpoint with data derived from total survey of cathedrals. Certainly in this cathedral, while we retain Prayer Book Morning and Evening Prayer, our use of Rite B of the ASB for the sung Eucharist has not resulted in the diminution of the musical repertoire (quite the contrary) and I have no evidence that parents decline to present their boys because of the local usage.

Those of us who are deeply concerned to uphold the Anglican tradition of music in worship are also, I hope, sensitive to the primacy of the worship, to which, as they say, the music is the handmaid.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HOLBY,
The Deanery,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
April 21.

Threat to woodlands

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, The article by Mr Phillip Whitehead (April 25) about Britain's woodlands makes certain valid points. Diseases such as Dutch Elm disease and oak diseases should be eradicated by the public authorities, as the task is beyond private means and powers.

But Mr Whitehead also talks nonsense. He suggests that the Forestry Commission has glutted the market with timber - this when Britain is still importing 93 per cent of its timber requirements. He suggests that ancient woodlands have been lost through complex tax avoidance schemes.

The planting of woods and the caring of them until maturity has been encouraged by the tax system, since such expenditure has in the past been treated as revenue expenditure creating losses which could be set against available income. I doubt the wisdom of giving such relief, not because they devastate our woodlands, for they do just the reverse, but because every special tax relief is in effect a subsidy.

I regard subsidies as undesirable in principle, since any worthwhile business should be able to stand on its own feet. I have accepted such tax reliefs when available, and have created beautiful woodlands in the Highlands of Scotland which are now the home of red deer which were not seen before. But I have not been able thereby to satisfy my greed, if I ever had it, as British timber like so many things British, is too expensive to compete with foreign products.

Destruction of hedgerows may be regrettable in some ways, but I feel a deep sense of gratitude to farmers when I see their broad acres carrying grass and other crops and keeping the countryside beautiful. Everything can be criticised, but let us not imagine too much in the pastime of trying to drive down landowners and workers who are succeeding by their strenuous efforts in feeding the nation very well, with surpluses for others, while at the same time creating a pleasing environment.

Yours faithfully,
C. N. BEATTIE,
24 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Landscaping and BR

From the Curator of the Hertford Museum

Sir, Major Philip Banbury suggests (April 16) that the question of railway landscaping should not rate highly in the priorities of British Rail. It would appear that this was not the policy of British Rail's predecessors.

In the museum we have a poster, of the mid-nineteenth century, which states that "The Eastern Counties Railway Company offers the following advantages to Nervous Persons. Trains at reduced speed to meet their views."

The poster continues: "The Season Tickets may be 10 or 20 per cent higher than on other lines - but as the time allowed for seeing the country is so liberal on the part of the Company, the Passengers must not complain."

Apparently, this was not the official policy of the Eastern Counties Railway, as the poster was printed on behalf of the passengers.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. DAVIES, Curator,
Hertford Museum,
18 Bull Plain, Hertford,
April 17.

THE TIMES Saturday

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Readings, recitations and the chance to rub shoulders with the literati - the season of literature festivals is upon us.
Tim Heald joins in a week of words

The write stuff

The poet had not been expecting schoolchildren. He had done the school reading last night and he had been hoping for an adult audience this morning. He wanted to give them death and psychiatry and mordant grown-up jokes. He peered round the studio, looking fazed, an early-middle-aged man with a shock of white hair and a bottle-green corduroy jacket.

"Ah", he said, unfolding his considerable length into the chair on the speaker's platform. "A lot of it is fairly, well, obscene and... well, right." A gaggle of 11-year-olds tittered. There were a hundred or so in the little theatre and the poet, Kit Wright, was in the centre of a steeply tiered "U" of seats. Most of the audience had left school years ago, but even a small number of children was unsettling when he wanted to read *From the Day Room*, poems composed in a mental hospital.

"Someone said you'd better go into the nut-house because you're bonkers", he said genially, and read:

*Many are non-plussed
By the unexpected behaviour
Of their clothes
And have mislaid forever
The art of wearing the face."*
The occasion was this year's Lancaster Literature Festival - a week of reading and recitation and all-round bookishness which ushered in a season of such things.

From now until October poets, novelists and dramatists, usually of a slightly serious disposition, will be appearing live before their readers all over the country. Some of the festivals, such as Cheltenham, the oldest of them all, are rather grand, and feature sponsored lectures and specially imported foreign poets. Others - the Cley Little Festival of Poetry for instance - are more modest.

The Lancaster festival was, apart from a hideous literary brains trust at Bracknell, my first exposure to this emerging form of entertainment (it may be an art form but I think not). Entitled, prosaically, "Writing '84", it opened with a lecture from Alan Bennett, sponsored by Lancaster Breweries, and ended with a show called *Double or Quit*, sponsored by Provincial Insurance. This was described as "the tale of Private Percy Toplis, a 20-year-old Nottingham pit lad who led a mutiny of British troops just before Passchendaele in 1917 but escaped to become a celebrated outlaw and racketeer".

In between there was a series of lunchtime poetry readings by U.A. Fanthorpe (this year's writer-in-residence at St Martin's College, Lancaster), Anthony Thwaite, Sue Lenier, Kathleen Raine, Kit Wright and Peter Redgrove and Penelope Shuttle (who also judged the Festival Poetry Competition). The novelists, Maureen Duffy, Rose Tremain (fresh from an Arts Council Tour of the North-west), Barry Hines, Julian Barnes, Maggie Gee, Bernard MacLaverty, Maeve Binchy, David Benedictus and Christopher Matthew took over in the evenings for "a series in which we assess the current state of the novel".

In addition to these more or less straightforward events Lancaster provided some one-off oddities. The cartoonists Poy Simmonds and Mel Calman appeared together; there was a well-attended late-night reading by the reggae rafter Benjamin Zephaniah; a full-length dance satire about violence against women; a brains trust by a panel from the Society of Authors at a local restaurant, the Pizza Margherita. "I'm not sure we'll get many new members from it", said H. R. F. Keating, the chairman, whose contribution was billed as "Assistance offered by the Society of Authors". Frank Delaney presented readings of his favourite writing for the BBC programme *With Great Pleasure*. "Rather corny", said the woman sitting next to me, "but I suppose it will do for Radio Four".

In all there were 39 different events. The most expensive was an all-day poetry workshop for £5, but a few were free and there were season-ticket reductions for people who wanted to attend all the poetry readings or all the novelists' sessions. "I don't think it would be possible for anyone to mount a festival without subsidies", says Pamela Clunies-Ross of the Poetry Society, who is the new co-

ordinator for the Literature Festivals Council. Lancaster cost around £20,000.

Public money in the shape of grants from the city and county council and North West Arts accounted for some of the funding. Private sponsorship is more difficult to come by. Local bookshops sometimes help, and local Marks & Spencer branches are generally thought to be worth approaching; but it is not easy. At Lancaster an excellent bookstall in the foyer of the Duke's Playhouse, where most of the festival was held, not only gave the punters a chance to buy books by the visiting writers (books on display were changed at least once a day) but also augmented the funds. So did bar takings.

But almost the greatest source of subsidy lies in the performances. Writers come remarkably cheap, especially the serious but often impecunious ones who are the staple of the literature-festival circuit. There may be exceptions, but most writers can expect a second-class rail fare and between £30 and £70 for their performance. Occasionally they will be put up in the local hotel. One or two of the Lancaster writers could be observed putting away the stupendous northern breakfasts at the Royal Kings Arms Hotel but most will have been given a bed and meals by friends of the festival who will expect them, in the nicest possible way, to sing for their supper.

"I think literature festivals are very agreeable", Kit Wright said. "They always take place in very posh towns like Cambridge and Cheltenham. The people are interested in what you're doing and it's 'outside'. It's a form which exists in the air as well as on the page. Communitarian eating directly with an audience makes you feel you haven't been wasting your time. All very heartening. The camaraderie of the printed word."

Certainly the atmosphere at Lancaster was notably friendly. There is a bar in the theatre foyer where the bookstall was set up, so it was easy for literary groupies to have a beer and a browse at the same time. There was a lot of milling around and chatting and plenty of literature posters to peruse if you couldn't get at the books and didn't have anyone to talk to. The audiences varied from several hundred for a play or a popular choice like the reggae rafter to between 20 and 30 for a solo writer on a difficult subject.

(Philip Howard's Law - that if a published writer delivers a talk at least half the audience will ask him to read their unpublished manuscripts - did not obtain. Judith Albiston, the festival director, suggested that this was because it was considered bad form. You don't talk about your own work to a distinguished visitor who has been asked to hold forth about his.

Bernard MacLaverty, who lives in Scotland but comes from Ulster, was asked if he found it easy to write about the southern Irish. David Benedictus was not subjected to another of his most embarrassing moments. This was at a literary luncheon when the chairman asked for questions and a man in the front asked: "What did he say his name was?"

Mr Benedictus is very much the sort of writer I would expect to find at a literary festival. He was the first person ever to be made a writer-in-residence at a public library (Sutton) and so enjoyed the experience that he is now completing another spell as a writer-in-residence, at Southampton. One of his specialties is getting novelists to read an entire book out loud in one all-night session, a form of literary masochism which regularly attracts a dozen or so insomniacs to the library.

Unlike many successful authors, he feels an obligation to the unpublished. "So many people", he said, "have work stashed away in cupboards or bottom drawers, and if nothing else they need someone who is not family to read it."

Many of the audience at Lancaster were much better at looking as writers are supposed to look - faintly woolly and abstracted and Michael Footish - than the writers themselves. Frank Delaney, as so often, looked like a man who has arrived at your front door with an interesting new religion to sell, and Bernard MacLaverty was the very image of the neat unobtrusive schoolmaster.



Musical musing on Passchendaele from Howarth and Fox ... while down at the pizza parlour H. R. F. Keating is on the menu ...



... rhymes from Mike Rosen ... words from the Cumbrian bard, Norman Nicholson ...



... Zephaniah leads the reggae ranting

Mr Benedictus, however, was in red running shoes and a T-shirt with the motif "Nice guys finish last". He was also wearing his usual unmatched socks, a distinctive personal trade mark. This, one felt, was a proper writer, a man you could imagine living very frugally in a garret. Best of all, he turned up with a large, rather battered suitcase full of his books which he sold at a reduced price.

When I told her about this, Pamela Clunies-Ross said she couldn't understand why David had done that as there was a perfectly good bookstall which would surely have stocked a representative selection of his work. This was quite true but slightly missed the point. It was the sort of behaviour you would expect from a novelist in a novel and therefore entirely appropriate for a literature festival.

The content and quality of performance varies hugely. I thought all the speakers I heard gave good value for money. Kit Wright coped well with the unexpected children and still managed to get in a marvelously lively poem about Walter Gabriel and the Archers. It was a good idea to have Bernard MacLaverty and Maeve Binchy together because they sparked off each other. David Benedictus was expected to talk about "novelizations" (he wrote the book "spin-offs" to the film *Local Hero* and a television life of Lloyd George), but he seemed rather bored with this idea and instead gave his modest audience of 20 or so a discursive session about, more or less, the writer in society.

Poetry is obviously the form most suited to a public reading, if only because it can be short. Pamela Clunies-Ross confirmed that there had been an enormous upsurge in poetry readings although there are still poets, notably Philip Larkin, who never read in public. Among prose writers she said Salman Rushdie was one of the performers most in demand. Had I heard him read from *Midnight's Children*? No? She sighed. I really must. "Salman is a brilliant performer."

Literature festivals "bring books from the covers directly to the listening audience", says the Literature Festivals Council, "and place the writers before your eyes." There are still writers and readers who regard both these ideas as highly undesirable, but 35 years after Cheltenham led the way, it seems that the literature festival is here to stay.

Index to a summer of literature festivals

The next literature festival is the Essex festival at Colchester which runs from Tues to May 12. Russell Hoban Prize Session for schools on Thurs. Hugh Brogan on his new Arthur Ransome biography on May 5; an all-day Poetry Press Fair put on by small poetry publishers on May 6; three feminist poets on May 9, followed by D. M. Thomas and Ruth Rosen; Margaret Drabble on May 10; Alan Brownjohn and George Macbeth read their poetry on May 11; and three separate group poetry readings on May 12. For more details contact Joe Allard, Department of Literature, Essex University, Colchester (0206 862288) or Michael Prochak, the Arts Centre, Church Street, Colchester (0206 577301).

Bracknell: This more modest festival overlaps with Essex; May 10 to May 12. This year's, dedicated to new writers, is presented by Maureen Duffy. Other poets include John Arlott and Wilde Theatre, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 4PA.

Bath: May 25 to June 10. Offers a series of informal lunches followed by authors' talks from Count Nikolai Tolstoy, Brian Aldiss, Peter Tinsley, Alasdair Gray and Desmond Morris. This year's guests at the literary dinner are Ronald Blythe and Michael Palin; black tie, Roman Baths, £12.50 a head. More information from the Bath Festival, 1 Pierrepont Place, Bath BA1 1JY.

Ilkley: After a lapse last year this is back, from Sept 15 to Sept 22. There will be some 50 presentations including appearances by Fay Weldon, D. M. Thomas, Alasdair Gray, Alan Bennett and Christopher Fry. Organizer: Michael Dawson, Festival Office, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8DG.

Cheltenham: Oct 14 to Oct 21. Offers Michael Foot on Disraeli and Professor Glynne Wickham on Shakespeare; a new Howard Branton play about Shelley; a "major" Johnson celebration; centenary tributes to Damon Runyon and Sean O'Casey; and

Paul Foot on "Orwell and 1984". There is also a workshop session at which any poets so minded may read their work out loud and literary Spurling will adjudicate and award the annual Cheltenham award for the year's most unfairly unappreciated book. Organizer: Jeremy Tyndall, Town Hall, Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Kent: Autumn, but dates not confirmed. There is "Contemporary Women Writers". Details from John Rice, South East Arts, 9-10 Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Newcastle upon Tyne: A general arts festival but will have a literature section in the last week of October. Contact Pam Jarvis, c/o Arts Marketing, 10 Osborne Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Oxford: Poetry Festival, Oct 25 to 28. There are hopes that Yevgeny Zhenko can be persuaded to come on after his Cheltenham reading. Another highlight will be the annual poetry competition which usually attracts more than 500 entries. This year's judges are Gillian Clarke and Maureen Duffy. More details from Adrian Litvinoff, Oxford Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ.

All these festivals belong to the Literature Festivals Council whose co-ordinator is Pamela Clunies-Ross, LFC, 21 Earls Court Square, London SW5. Other festivals devoted exclusively or partly to literature include: Cley Little Festival of Poetry: May 16 to May 18. Organizer Mrs Megan Allen, Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Briston, Norfolk. Midvern Fringe Festival: May 12 to June 2. Offers some poetry. Information Office, Grange Road, Great Malvern, Worcestershire. Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival: Readings by poets and actors and actresses every Sun through July and Aug. Festival Director: Roger Pringle. Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. Rye Festival: Sept 7 to Sept 9. Town festival with 30 events covering a wide range of arts including some poetry. Organizer: Carolyn Simpson, 30 Marmalade Street, Rye, Sussex TN31 7EU. St Ives September Festival: Sept 1 to Sept 15. Includes literature and poetry in a varied programme. Festival co-ordinator: Miranda Phillips, The Guildhall, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 2DT.



... Christopher Matthew in novel form ...



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Packaged but not pampered, Michael Watkins takes a tour by bus, boat and plane across South America...

Gold leaf and poverty take the breath away

All towns bear the stigma of their past - Milton Keynes included. Neither is Colombia's capital of Bogotá exempt the conquistadors, finding gold, named the site of their grand larceny El Dorado. Today there is a second pseudonym, "Pickpockets' City", and the New York police pay Bogotá the dubious compliment of taking crime-prevention instructions from its law-enforcers. Evolution turns full ironic circle.

We flew into El Dorado airport and I took a deep breath for, at 8,661ft above sea level, one gets puffy. Two days later I had made a mess of things. We should give to a city, contribute something of ourselves, not just take. I gained little from Bogotá because I put little in. Perhaps it was jet-lag, the altitude, after-effects of airline food; whatever I tried to blame it on, I felt that there was something not quite right about this place.

What makes a city? Architecture, of course, and Bogotá is fashionable, with geometric design, impressive flyovers and underpasses. Yet what they fly over and pass under is poverty. There is a kind of falsity; the pearly dentures gleam brilliantly, but the gums are carious. Picking at these gums are approximately 20,000 wasted children gamines - living, sleeping, in the streets and stealing from them.

Looking back, I draw on fragments: half a woman dragging her legless torso to beg outside the Banco Tequendama; streets littered with a confetti of metal bottle tops, squashed into tarmac; policemen sweating fleshily, fingering fat moustaches, fat trunks. I see the lottery sellers, and priests like black beetles in the sun; I smell the dribbly pineapple sold at street corners; and I hear the stuck-pig squeal of ambulance sirens.

I recall the Plaza de Bolívar and sudden, unexpected, patrician delights such as the Cloister of San Agustín; and I remember the dead eyes of young soldiers guarding government buildings, and the Museo del Oro containing the largest collection of gold in the world. I am reminded too of death in the afternoon at the Plaza de Torres, where many of the best, including El Cordobes, have fought brave bulls; and I see in my mind's eye those alleys reeking of sour urine, and tenements where noses are bloodied, those areas of faith and hope where all small boys are El Cordobes.

As I said, I made a mess...

or something is not quite right about this place. Whatever the fault, I was glad of the flight to another country. Peru - where we arrived simultaneously at Lima Airport with Alan García, the presidential hopeful. So the bands were out and crowds danced and waved: there was a palpable feeling of political vitality. If Bogotá seemed caustic, Lima shrieked its guts out, vulgarly, good-humouredly, unstopably. Poverty rises from about, enveloping one like marsh-gas; and contained therein is a kinetic energy, a life force. Favelas - slums - cling to hillsides, impending avalanches of revolt; and in the Plaza de Armas a water-cannon stood by, the military slung tear-grenades at their belts; but one felt that this was normal, that life went on.

Lima is Pizarro's city, founded in 1535 with untypical insistence to detail on the face of it, close to the equator, tempered by the Humboldt Current, you would expect the perfect climate. But from May to October *limero* rarely see the sun. The word for this perennial fogbank is *garúa* which, in turn, induces a mood known as *chubasco*, a nagging feeling relieved only by kicking your neighbour's dachshund or by suicide.

"One morning towards dawn I heard a fusillade of shots, closely followed by a single report, from the garrison near the hotel"

"It never rains in Lima", we were told. "The last rain fell on January 14, 1970." But it rained as we explored the exquisite Torre Tagle Palace, a fine, smeary rain and very wetting, not that it mattered, because Lima had cast its spell and we were hooked. Anyway we were in transit, on the way to a far wetter world.

Elmer J. Faucett's airline delivered us, 2,300 miles from the mouth of the Amazon, to Iquitos, which was once boisterous by headhunting Jivaro Indians. During the rubber boom at the turn of the century it suffered further when Monsieur Eiffel ordered one of his cast-iron structures to be assembled in Iquitos. A swell hotel, Gran Malecón Palace, opened; its ballroom held performances by Sarah Bernhardt and the French Grand Opera. By 1918 it was all over -

rubber seeds, stolen from Brazil, took root in Malaya, leaving Iquitos steamily deserted, all 2,300 miles up the creek.

Peruvians, like the Japanese, have trouble with their cis: "Have a nice flight", said a stewardess aboard Mr Faucett's aeroplane, on which a form of bingo was conducted whose rules were so arcane that I resorted to *La Cronica*, a daily paper of grey print and chronically grey news. Someone told me that eight journalists on a "truth mission" had been murdered at nearby Ayacucho; and I pondered on the several aspects of truth until we landed.

Accessible only by river and by air, Iquitos was rain-smudged and bedraggled, seedy in a Conrad way. Vultures lined corrugated tin roofs, oddly stiff and spindly, like broken umbrellas. I bought some lines at the market and was flea-bitten for my pains.

On the river it was clean enough; four hours in a motorized canoe chugged us into deep jungle, where someone enterprising has made camp at a place known as Yanamono in the hunting grounds of the Yagua Indians.

Guides took us to meet the Yagua, with whom we traded cigarettes, ball-point pens and candy bars for piranha-teeth necklaces and permission to photograph them.

The rain came then, sending the forest into a flurry of noise and protest. It fell implacably all night, so that one awoke sweat-slimy and unfreshed for the long journey back to Lima. I celebrated our seventh day in Latin America with scraggy optimism, an entire week without a coup, an earthquake or diarrhoea. It was on this euphoric magic carpet that we rode to Cuzco, landing in the universe's navel - such was Cuzco considered by the Incas - at eight in the morning to a bout of dizziness and painful breathing. Most newcomers reel at the suddenness of 11,000ft, and they are prescribed an effusion of coca-leaf tea with which to fight *soroche*, altitude sickness.

In my case it worked immediately, in others not at all; so they rested for 24 hours, eating little, drinking and smoking nothing.

The year was 1479 when Indians from the Pacific coast, from Titiaca, from Quito, came in reverence and pounding faith to the narrow valley: "Cuzco, oh Great City, we salute you!" For that was the year the Inca Empire - under Sapa Inca, Tupac and Yupanqui - reached its zenith. The fratricidal war which followed

this apex of power, Inca chief against brother ruler, helped Pizarro to destroy the mightiest empire ever seen by the western hemisphere. From 1534 Inca Cuzco was replaced by Spanish colonial houses, churches and squares; yet something so vital to the indigenous temperament remained imperishable, living today in the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Quenko, Pisac, Tambo Machay, Ollantaytambo and, in unprofaned sublimity, Machupicchu. The Inca language survived too; you hear more Quechua spoken than Spanish.

Cuzco is beautiful, dirty, grindingly poor; its streets stink of excrement and staid cooking oil; when it rains the gutters cannot cope, so the town is awash. Ostensibly belonging to the *mestizo* (Indian crossed with Spanish blood) and to the pure Indian, in reality it belongs to no one; it is held in the vice of poverty, a deep staining, indelible poverty.

There is nothing ennobling about the poverty in Cuzco. The Indians walk like slaves, defeated. They sell finely made alpaca goods and delicate weaving; but there are more sellers than buyers, so one says to them, "No hay dinero". No money. The word "No" is the *lingua franca* of Cuzco.

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Valais: Your holiday treasureland

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Montana 01041/27/41 30 41
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One of Switzerland's treasures

TRAVEL/2

... and Ben Box provides some guidelines Pack a sense of humour with the torch and water tablets

Anyone who has read the works of twentieth-century novelists like Gabriel Garcia Marquez will be aware of the "marvellous reality" of South America. You can discover it every day in the harsh juxtaposition of satellite shanty towns and wealthy cities, in delightful incongruities like listening to beautiful traditional music in the middle of the empty Venezuelan savannah, surrounded by earth-moving equipment. It is a land of incomparable contrasts, requiring patience and a sense of humour in the visitor.

For the independent traveller there are four common itineraries: Mexico and Central America; the Andean countries from Colombia southward to Bolivia; Brazil; and the southernmost countries, Chile and Argentina. If precolonialist archaeology is your special interest, you would choose either of the first two. Of course, there is no need to restrict yourself to one of these four routes; for instance, travel to Brazil from Colombia or Peru by the river Amazon is popular, if time-consuming.

Not only does each country have its own history, customs and atmosphere, but it also contains different landscapes: an example is Ecuador, where Pacific coast, tropical lowlands, snow-capped Andean volcanoes and tributaries of the Amazon are all within easy reach of each other (Ecuadorian territory also includes the unique Galapagos Islands).

What to take

Adequate screening lotions to protect against the burning tropical sun cannot be bought in South America. At high altitude the rarefied air will promote sunburn and dry skin. The temperature difference between sun and shade, and between night and day, can be very marked. Open canoes, the only means of transport in the wet season in parts of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil, afford no protection from sun or rain, so a hat and a large plastic sheet to cover your belongings are important.

Wherever you go, tough walking shoes, a torch and water-soluble tablets are useful. You should have inoculations against typhoid, tetanus, polio and yellow fever, and your GP and a good guide book should be consulted on special precautions. You will need insect repellent, travel insurance and camera film. Binoculars are useful.

Altitude sickness is unavoidable at heights above 3,000 metres, especially if you arrive by air at La Paz (Bolivia), Quito (Ecuador) or Bogotá (Colombia). The best remedy for shortness of breath and a pounding heart is to rest, and

not to smoke, drink alcohol or eat heavily for 24 hours. Worse symptoms (headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting) can be treated with medicines, or by descending to a lower altitude and coming back up slowly.

On the move

Transport in South America is never dull and rarely on time. Air services (the quickest, but most expensive) are good in some countries, for example Brazil, but overbooking is normal everywhere, so always confirm a flight at least 72 hours in advance. Airports in the tropics can be closed by rain, and in the Andes by any number of incidents of types of weather. Small planes are often used for flights over the Nazca Lines and the Angel Falls; for example - don't have a big breakfast beforehand.

Train travel is fine if you are in no hurry; the lines in Peru, Ecuador, and from San José to Puerto Limón (Costa Rica) are among the most interesting in the world, scenic and in terms of engineering.

In Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico and some of Central America, first-class bus travel is

comfortable and efficient, but on second-class buses in the Andes (because of the terrain and the state of the buses) never expect a journey to end when the timetable says it will.

On buses, beware of offers of (drugged) cigarettes or food from which you may wake up literally naked.

Booking ahead

If travelling on a tight budget, it is cheaper (but slower) to pay as you go along rather than booking ahead through agencies, but there may be occasions when it may be necessary to book accommodation (and transport) in advance: Carnival in Rio de Janeiro or Trinidad, the Inti Raymi (Sun) festival in Cuzco, Peru (June 24), at Easter time, at Christmas, which is a major holiday period especially in beach resorts, on Galapagos Islands' package tours (the only way of getting there), and in good hotels at major tourist sites.

If you are intending to stay in a hotel belonging to an international chain, there is no problem, but if dealing directly with a hotel, allow plenty of time for your letter and the reply to reach their destination.

(A letter I sent to the Ecuadorian jungle region "took four months to arrive.")

Border controls

Crossing frontiers by land is usually a slow process, but you can speed things up by having all the correct papers, and by investigating the exit and entry formalities of each country (in some places, the immigration officers are not at the border - if you fail to get the necessary stamps, you will be turned back).

Some countries (for example, Colombia, Peru, Honduras) require you to have a ticket out before you will be let in, but official demands are not always checked; on two visits to Colombia I was never asked to produce such a ticket. A miscellaneous charges order (MCO) from an IATA airline may suffice, as may a return ticket to Britain from another country. Another entry requirement may be that you have enough money to cover your stay; in Colombia this is £500 in US dollars (US\$300 in Nicaragua) to sufficient but unspecified amounts (Brazil).

For most countries, British citizens need a passport and a tourist card, obtained either before arrival from a consulate or on arrival, or at the border: check the details with the country's consulate in Britain. Guatemala has no consular representation in Britain; you get the obligatory visa either in Paris, or in a country visited en route. Britons must also have a visa to visit Argentina (until relations improve, only businessmen are likely to get one). The same applies to Cuba and Venezuela (if arriving overland (if arriving by air, an entry card is given in lieu)).

Where to go

When you arrive in a country or city, it is a good idea to go to the local tourist office. However, many tourists do not recognize the existence of cheap lodgings, in which case you must resort to asking around, or following the boys who, in many countries, meet buses touring rooms. It is wise to exclude from your itinerary places where fighting is taking place (at present, the Ayacucho region of Peru, Nicaragua's borders, parts of Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala), and drug-growing and trafficking areas of Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Brazilian Amazonia.

What it costs

Fluctuations in exchange rates and varying costs of living between countries make it difficult to predict how much money you will need per day. For those living by the cheapest possible means (free camping, hitch-hiking), from \$7 to \$9 might be enough.

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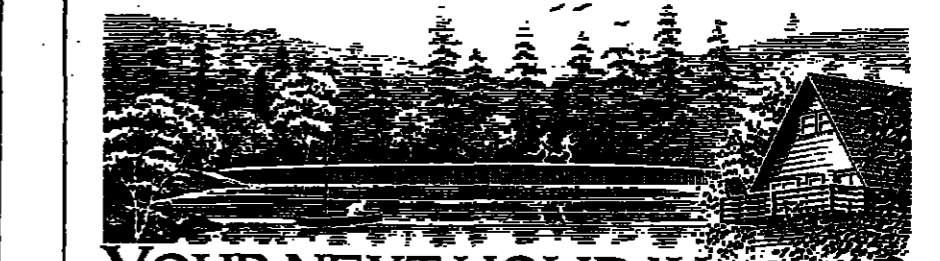
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TRAVEL/3

Bargain deals in the shoulder season



Package-holiday bookings for the July/August peak period have been fairly buoyant this year, but bargain offers coming through for May and June indicate that there are still plenty of holidays available for the "shoulder" season.

Thomson Holidays, the market leader, has already sold more summer holidays than its total for the whole of last season, but says that it still has many places available in May/June and September/October. It has reduced the price of several thousand May and June holidays by up to £35 per person under its "Square Deal" scheme.

Horizon has a similar scheme, "Money-saver", with offers such as £237, inclusive of insurance, for a one-week half-board holiday on the Algarve at the end of May, or £209 for seven nights in a first-class hotel on the Neapolitan Riviera. Horizon still has a "reasonable number" of June holidays available in Italy, Greece, Lanzarote and the Algarve.

Global says that Spain and the Balearic islands are proving by far the most popular destinations, but there is still space outside the peak season between mid-June and early September. There are still many holidays available in Italy.

Global also has seats still available on its Overseas coach tours to Oberammergau for the passion play.

Hongkong non-stop

Cathay Pacific Airways will introduce the first non-stop flight on the 6,280-mile journey from Hongkong to London on May 5, cutting two and a half hours off the normal time. It will operate once weekly on Saturdays, supplementing the daily service which makes an intermediate stop in Bahrain. Cathay already operates a weekly non-stop flight in the eastbound direction.

Free insurance

Brittany Ferries is offering free A1 Five Star vehicle and travel insurance worth almost £30 on many of its sailings this summer. The deal will be available on three-quarters of its

sailings, including many in the July/August peak season, on the Portsmouth-St Malo and Plymouth-Roscoff routes, as well as the Plymouth-Santander service.

Cheap with children

Blue Arrow Holdings, the specialist villa and apartment company, has cut £30 off the cost of all children's holidays, even during July and August, in its new "Family Holidays" programme.

The reduction applies to youngsters between the ages of two and 11, when one or two children are accompanied by two adults and when three or four children are accompanied by two adults. Children under two years of age travel for only £10. Blue Arrow operates to Majorca, the Algarve, the Costa Blanca and the Costa del Sol. Information from Abta travel agents or from Blue Arrow at Blue Arrow House, Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 69111).

Round trip

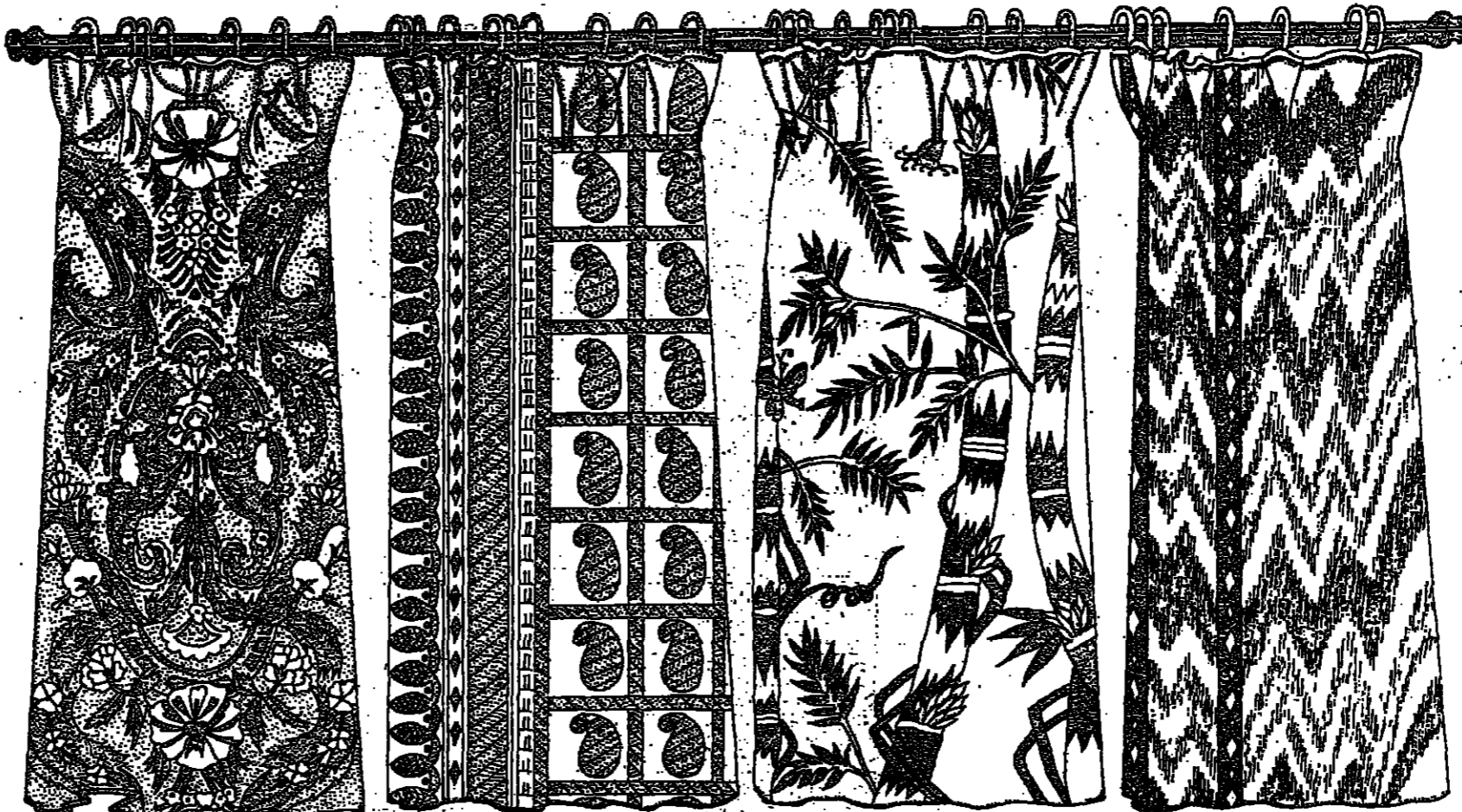
British Caledonian Airways has introduced an unusual round-the-world fares programme featuring transatlantic travel on Cunard's QE2. Passengers can take the five-day voyage between Southampton and New York for a minimum supplement of £206 on top of the normal round-the-world fare of £999 offered by British Caledonian in conjunction with Northwest Orient Airlines. Total of 21 sailings are available throughout the year under the scheme.

Mississippi bound

A specialist tour operator, Holiday in America, is marketing inclusive holidays to New Orleans for visitors to the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition which is being opened by President Reagan on May 12. Accommodation is available in three New Orleans hotels at prices from \$649, which includes the return flight from London on Pan American. More than 12 million people are expected to visit the Exposition, which is being held on an 80-acre site on the banks of the Mississippi. Information from Abta agents or Holiday in America, 6-8 Old Bond Street, London W1 (629 6838).

Philip Ray

VALUES/Beryl Downing finds a new key to mixing fabrics



Two unrelated designs coordinated by colour. Right, Lahore has bands of large, paisley shapes in clear blue or white. Mirabel, above, is a blue on white, all-over paisley with a border. Both on heavy cotton, £17.25 metre. Available in any colour to order. By Michael Szell

Two similar designs coordinated by scale. Right, Lahore has bands of large, paisley shapes in clear blue or white. Mirabel, above, is a blue on white, all-over paisley with a border. Both on heavy cotton, £17.25 metre. Available in any colour to order. By Michael Szell

Bamboo Forest, above, and its coordinate Bamboo Thicket are shown in the V&A exhibition as examples of modern design as adaptations rather than exact reproductions of ancient textiles. £14 metre by G.P. & J. Baker from an Indian painted cotton in seven colourways

Two designs based on the flame motif which appears in various forms in many cultures. Right, Bali shows the zig-zag in an all-over pattern. Above, Malacca adds sweeping curves to the basic theme. Both in cotton satin, £8.95 metre at all John Lewis branches

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Time to check your coordinates

Television's recent flirtation with the Raj may cause a temporary fashion flurry, but the effect on furnishing fabrics will be much more lasting. A collection of Indian-inspired textiles launched this week introduces a note of lavish opulence which is far removed from the porridge tweed of the homespun 1970s.

They are designed by Michael Szell, one of the brightest jewels in our creative crown. For 15 years he has been providing inspired textiles from his small showroom at 47 Sloane Avenue, London SW3, supplying embassies, historic houses and royal palaces, as well as rather smaller-scale interiors.

His ideas are always well ahead of their time. In the late 1960s, long before the craze for metallic finishes took hold, he was inventing fabrics decorated by hand with silver foil, and for years he has been going to India on an annual pilgrimage to get fresh inspiration.

"I feel a great affinity with their artistic history", he says. "We have almost lost the art of making to individual requirements - most manufacturers are only willing to do special runs if customers buy hundreds of yards. In India their arts and crafts are as alive today as they were 2,000 years ago and they like to make things individually in special colours, as I do."

"Design is a vehicle for colouring. The success of any design depends on how good the colours are and I feel that primaries and pastels are now out of date. The new feeling is for clear, true colour - apricot is real apricot, grey and blue are pure, not muted."

"Colour is also the vehicle for coordinating fabrics. For years everything matched everything else - you had curtains, chair covers, cushions, wallpaper all in the same design. Now this has reached the high street and interior designers don't want it any more."

"The new style is to mix designs you might think would never go together, but actually work wonderfully because the colouring is right."

To prove his point he pulled out a striking crimson-splashed yellow silk with a traditional

floral tapestry design called Gobelin and hung it with a typically Indian block print, Orissa (both illustrated). Despite their dramatically different characters the two fabrics looked in perfect harmony because of the clever repetition and complementing of colour.

All the silks in this new collection are a visual feast, some sparkling with gold and silver like a raja's tunic. Canna, based on the flower of that name which grows in Rajasthan, looks sumptuous in turquoise and silver. Vaseer, inspired by the Venetian window grilles that were adopted by Indian designers, shimmers with silver and gold, again on turquoise.

Such opulence could be ostentatious, but it is all handled with such style that it succeeds in being lavish without being vulgar. For those who prefer less drama in their drawing rooms, his range also includes some extremely subtle effects in pale apricots and golds or white on white.

Only the best-quality fabrics are used - silk, moire, chintz and cotton - and most designs are available in all of them, from £15 to £35 per metre. Everything is printed to order in London and can be supplied in two to three weeks. As all colourings are done individually, there is a minimum order of 25 metres.

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took over the Swaisland Printing Company at Crayford in Kent and acquired a collection of pattern books dating back to the mid-eighteenth century.

The company now has one of the finest archives of textile documents in the world: a selection will be shown at an exhibition called "From East to West" at the Victoria & Albert Museum from May 9 to October 14.

The exhibition has been put together by Nathalie Rothstein, deputy keeper of the museum's textiles department, with four of her team of curators and Mrs Audrey Duck, archivist of G.P. & J. Baker. It traces the history and fortunes of the Baker family through letters and pattern books and shows the various stages of development of its designs.

Some are from simple sources such as the nineteenth-century Persian bale wrapping translated in 1935 into a printed cotton which is faithful both in colour and apparent texture to the original hand-painted canvas. Other fabrics have been developed from beautiful hand-painted Indian cloths which were used to wrap gifts, and many of the art nouveau designs were created by top artists of their day, such as C.F. A. Voysey, Lindsay Butterfield and Charles Haire.

Fabrics showing every type of printing technique are included in the exhibition from block prints and copper roller prints to wooden roller, stencil and screen prints and several of the designs still produced today are displayed next to their original inspiration.

Although the company's current range includes many oriental influences, most of it is traditionally English. There is a selection of chintzes which includes a new design called Centenary Rose, based on a floribunda named after the company and bred specially for the centenary by R. Harkness & Co; it will be on show for the first time at the Chelsea Flower Show. All the Baker fabrics can be seen at the company's showrooms at 17-18 Berners Street, London W1.

Liberty also has some interesting archive material which it has recently translated into its East India collection. There are nine designs based on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century originals and two, Suki and Opium, which have been adapted from seventeenth-century lacquered screens. All are printed on glazed cotton chintz and cost around £12.50 per metre.

For those who prefer the freedom of more primitive designs, John Lewis has an interesting and inexpensive coordinating pair called Bali and Malacca, one a more elaborate version of the other and both based on a zigzag "flame" pattern. Both designs come on cotton satin at £6.95 a metre with blue, green, lemon, pink, chocolate or grey as the main colour.

And for those looking to the future it may be necessary to look even further into the past. One of the earliest textiles at the Victoria & Albert exhibition is a fourteenth-century piece from Peru with a strongly geometric pattern and bold colours. It has been adapted by G.P. & J. Baker as a modern print and would make a striking statement as curtains or covers in any avant-garde interior. Perhaps Peru will be the next source of inspiration - and when Bakers mounts its bicentenary exhibition the title may well be "From West to East".

SHOPFRONT on weddings

including Dorothy bags and lace gloves. The peace-extended satin heart is given to all those who buy an Andrea Wilkin wedding dress. The bride hangs it on her dressing-table mirror as a memento of the wedding day.

Wedding dresses are from £270 to about £1,500 and all the accessories and dresses are made in Northampton by Andrea's team of 17 seamstresses. Customers may order from the collection in London and at the Northampton shop at 159 Adnott Road (0604 31384), or Andrea will design to commission. She is available in London by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays (01-486 4744).

Whether you are shopping for a trousseau or for something cool and glamorous for a summer holiday, one of the best places in London to find good value is a little shop called Stolie at 54 Park Road, London NW1. Diane Ledger, who designs and makes everything she sells, has produced a new collection for summer in delicate cotton volles - perfect for hot holiday climates. The nightdress shown has a panel of lace inset down the front and edging the skirt; £28; the matching puff-sleeved negligee is £48.

She also has a range in pure silk, bordered with exquisite Catala lace, which she will make up in any size. One nightdress has a bodice entirely of lace and a matching kimono with a waterfall of 7in-wide lace cascading down the sleeves; £120 the set.

Stephen Burton is convinced that although English shoppers don't like to haggle, they do like a bargain. He in turn likes to move his stock quickly, so by working on a profit margin on good-quality stones that is smaller than usual he hopes to please everybody. He keeps a good variety of gold and diamonds in the £700 to £5,000 range, but he also has a range of rings from £200.

The quick turnover does mean that the lower-priced pieces are here today and gone tomorrow, but it also means that there is always something new and interesting to look at. Prices are from £100 and the shop is called Young Stephen, 1 Burlington Gardens, London W1.

Young couples looking for engagement rings might not immediately think of the upper reaches of New Bond Street as bargain-hunting country. But just round the corner in Burlington Gardens, Stephen Burton is offering a rather unusual deal: he does not put a mark-up of more than 25 per cent on any jewellery up to £10,000.

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DRINK

Colourless spirits with a kick

The skier may delight in a mid-morning nip of Poiré Williams; the tourist in Alsace may enjoy a glass of Framboise; but both may be sorely disappointed if they expect to relive the taste of their holidays back in Britain. Very few wine merchants carry any eau-de-vie at all, let alone the range that can be found on the Continent.

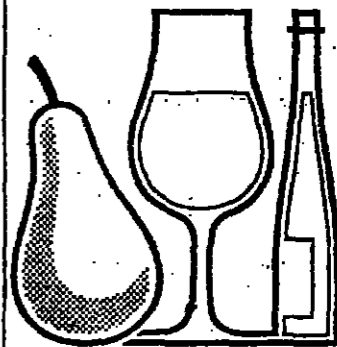
Real eau-de-vie are fruit brandies, and should not be confused with other fruit liqueurs or digestifs. These cheap, low strength cherry, peach or apricot brandies you see on shop shelves, for example, are not the same thing at all.

A true high-strength eau-de-vie is a spirit distilled from the fermented juice of fresh fruit, including grapes. Cognac, brandy, armagnac and marc all fit into this category, as does Normandy's calvados. Yet although it is technically correct to call all these spirits eau-de-vie, the term is usually reserved for alcoholic, colourless, dry fruit brandies, the best of which are made in northern Switzerland, Alsace and the Black Forest.

The eau-de-vie from Alsace, in their tall, white, fluted bottles, are probably the best known in Britain and are considered by many to be the finest. The Alsace distillers are certainly imaginative: they produce a staggering range of eau-de-vie, made from sloes (Prunelle), rowanberries (Sorbus), rosehips (Cynorhodon) and even holly berries (Baie de Houx) as well as the most usual fruit varieties.

The secret of making a good eau-de-vie is to watch the fermentation temperature - too hot and the beautiful fruit bouquet will disappear, too cold and the fermentation will be too slow. It is vital, too, to bottle these eau-de-vie as soon as possible after distillation (again to keep their powerful fragrance intact) either in ordinary bottles or in large glass jars if a more aged style is required.

The French call these water-white eau-de-vie *alcools blancs* and any French, Swiss or German farmer who has a glut of fruit is likely to distil the excess into eau-de-vie for his own use or to sell the fruit to the nearest distiller. The more robust fruits such as cherries, plums and blackcurrants are fermented in the usual way, but raspberries, strawberries and other soft fruits are macerated



in a neutral spirit first and then distilled in order to preserve their delicate flavour. Fruit with stones, such as apricots and cherries, are usually fermented with their kernels, to impart an almond-like and faintly bitter tang to the eau-de-vie.

Kirsch, a double-distilled eau-de-vie made from cherries, is probably the most widely produced. I have yet to find one that is agreeable enough to drink on its own although most would perk up fresh pineapple with ease.

I much prefer Mirabelle, made from golden plums, which taken chilled is a digestif to delight. One of the finest must be Schladerer's Mirabell from the famous Black Forest firm founded in 1844 by Alfred Schladerer. This 42° spirit, with its charming, delicate plummy taste, would be superb served cold with all sorts of fruit, flans although most worth buying simply for its ornate, red-sealed embossed bottle (Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1, £15.35). Even better is Schladerer's glorious 40° William's Birne a delicious, classic eau-de-vie that smells and tastes strongly of pears (Berry Bros, £15.10).

Dozens of Alsace firms produce eau-de-vie and of them all F. E. Trimbach are probably the most impressive. Trimbach's 45° Mirabelle Réserve (Oudin, £11.40) has a ripe plum-like bouquet backed by a very positive taste. Oudin also sell an aged Grande Réserve 45° Framboise (£12.50) whose oily, marc-like bouquet may take some getting used to; persevere, for its velvety texture and intense taste of ripe raspberries are heavenly. Eau-de-vie addicts should definitely visit La Vigneronne (105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7), who stock 19 different eau-de-vie including the sappy, woody Baie de Houx (La Vigneronne, £8.45 for half bottle) and an elegant, soft, blackcurrant Cassis (£7.95 for the half), both from Maison Rocassel, as well as a trio of miniatures from Bertrand in Alsace (95p).

The Bertrand eau-de-vie are much more robust than the Rocassel range and their Poiré Williams has an earthy, fiery character with a lot of pear flavour too. Harrods stocks Bertrand Poiré Williams complete with whole pear inside the bottle (£23), and yes, they really do tie the bottles on to a branch, carefully tucking into each one a young pear which grows to its full size inside the glass.

B. D.

Jane MacQuitty

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REVIEW Classical records of the month

Superlative eloquence that puts Brendel in a class of his own

It is a rare pleasure to be able to give a whole-hearted recommendation to a recording of one of the great cornerstones of the repertoire, but here there is no doubt: Alfred Brendel's new set of the Beethoven piano concertos is to be heard by anyone who has any interest in Beethoven, in music or in life.

Really there is not much more to be said, since Brendel says it all so eloquently in his performances. Any number of pianists can make the piano sing; Brendel alone can make it speak. Not a phrase, scarcely a note is played without seeming to make some important point in an almost palpable drift of thought. And where in another pianist this closeness of attention might be cloying, in Brendel it is not, because he works so much in a language of rhythm, weight and accent (and to a lesser extent colour).

To describe the expressive character of his playing of even a single phrase is difficult, simply because he is not thinking in those terms: he is thinking music. Yet his approach is far from being "purely" musical. Rather it touches with magnificent impurity on splendour, doubt, liveliness, comedy, folly and a thousand other attributes that music can contain and not merely express.

The effect of such abundance is, I fear, to make other performances sound dumb. Even Brendel's teacher, Edwin Fischer, to whose influence he has paid public tribute, seems a dim illuminator of the three later concertos when one's mind is filled with what the pupil has found there. In the "Emperor", for instance, one may admire Fischer's intimacy with the music, his disinclination to make it imperial or imperious, and yet his spaciousness; but after Brendel one wonders why he is content to let passages slip past without their being examined intently for what they have to say.

Nor does James Levine, the conductor in the Brendel recordings, come off at all badly from the comparison with Fischer's conductor in this concerto. Furtwängler, who shares with Brendel a feeling for the dynamic of the music, its progress through time, and if he tends to work by force where Brendel works by argument, the difference is inherent in the nature of these concertos. Indeed, the two complement each other marvellously, the orator and the essayist moving towards the same conclusions by their necessarily different routes.

Indeed, it is a strength of these performances that the orchestra never takes on a soloistic quality, even in the slow movements: the playing there is often lovely, but always in an impersonal way, as is right, since Beethoven's

Beethoven: Piano Concertos Nos 1-5 Brendel, Chicago SO/Levine. Philips 411 189-1 (four records), cassette 411 189-4, CD 411 189-2. Beethoven: Piano Concertos Nos 3-5 Edwin Fischer, Philharmonia/Parkland, Furtwängler, EMI RLS 2900013 (two records). Brahms: Piano Concerto No 2 Ashkenazy, Vienna PO/Haitink. Decca 410 199-1, cassette 410 199-4.

concertos, quite unlike, say, Mozart's, are soliloquies and not conversations.

Brahms also needs companionship between soloist and orchestra, but of a different kind: it is a dialogue of rhetorical gestures rather than sprightly imaginings. That, at least, is the way it sounds in a superb new recording from Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Vienna Philharmonic under Bernard Haitink. Both partners, but most particularly the orchestra, have the ability to range through Brahmsian moods from bear-like engulfing power to the gentlest echoes of slow waltz, and even to do so within a single passage. The orchestral music of the first movement is rich in such variety, to the extent that all Ashkenazy's poetry and brilliance may seem only the

stimulus for, and decoration of, Brahms's grandest symphony, played with ripeness, nostalgia and charm.

But why do Brendel, Levine and Beethoven have so much more going for them? The answer does not, I think, lie in the fact that the Philips set was recorded live, even though Brendel himself has been very forthcoming about the advantages of recorded concert performances as alternatives to studio versions. Perhaps there is a zest here that the lonely studio musician would not be spurred to, and perhaps studio "perfection" would have muted Brendel's grunts as he reaches for a delayed upbeat, which would have been a shame.

Nevertheless, the excitement of these recordings is not just that of being present with a Chicago audience last summer. It is that of hearing one of Brendel's glorious cascades, filled with living, breathing notes, ring down the curtain on the sentimental interlude in the middle of an electric first movement to the First Concerto. It is that of hearing slow movement sensibility that challenges and does not wilt. It is that of hearing music made the most it can be.

Paul Griffiths



Keys to enjoyment: Alfred Brendel (top) and Riccardo Muti

Cracking of the code reveals a Baroque treasure trove

The French baroque has proved one of the most difficult musical styles to recreate. Its elaborate code is only gradually becoming understood: the complex, heavily ornamental surface can seem off-putting and cold until one penetrates to the passion which its ritual forms control so rigidly. In this process the use of period instruments and the rediscovery of rhetorical style suited to the music have both been crucial factors, and Sigiswald Kuijken's new recordings of the opera *Zoroastre* must be accounted one of the most successful attempts so far.

It cannot of course conjure up the dance, drama and spectacle which were such an integral part of the French baroque opera. Nor is it essentially a very dramatic reading of the score: its virtues are altogether quieter and more restrained. What it does is to take every line of poetry, every nuance of emotion, with absolute seriousness, and thus it projects the opera as a work which addresses vital issues, this is not merely decorative music.

There are two substantially different versions of Rameau's score, one for the original production of 1749 and one for a revival of 1756: the latter is preferred here. In both, the element of magic and sorcery is great, and depicted in choruses and orchestral writing of the highest splendour. In the second there is rather more love

Rameau: *Zoroastre* Soloists, Collegium Vocale Gent, La Petite Bande/Sigiswald Kuijken. German Harmonia Mundi (from Conifer) 1C 157 999813 (four records). Rameau: *Les Indes Galantes* orchestral suite Orchestre de la Chapelle Royale/Philippe Harreweghe. French Harmonia Mundi HM 1130. Louis Couperin: Complete Harpsichord Works Davitt Moroney. French Harmonia Mundi HM 1124-28 (5 records).

interest, and some gorgeously sensual dances are added. With its vivid symbolism of the sun (which anticipates Mozart's *Zauberflöte* in some of its sonorities) the 1756 score is a rich treasure-trove of instrumental music, all of it exquisitely played at supple tempi with flexible rhythms by La Petite Bande.

The fierce choruses, most prominent in the tempestuous fourth act, are not allowed to overwhelm the textures, and the ringing chains of sevenths in "Quel bonheur!" are thrillingly light. Among the soloists, John Elwes in the title role has an impressively high tessitura, and sounds strained at the tops of his most lyrically extended passages. Gregory Reinhart is a superbly sinister Abramane, blasting through his syncretized third-act aria - surely one of the highlights of the whole French pre-*Gluck* repertoire - without drowning the gritty dissonances of the bassoons.

The women are perhaps less assured: Greta de Reyghere is

good at the fierce music in Amélie's part, but her quieter music is less convincing. Mieke van der Sluis's Erénice is very flutery, but Agnes Mellon's Céphise is much more focused and expressive, to beautiful effect in her second-act slow air. In the final act, rewritten in 1756, a serene radiance overcomes the music to glorious effect. But be warned: the booklet contains an English note but no English libretto; you have to consult the French original French 1756 publication.

Equally sprightly and deft orchestral playing can be heard on the new disc of music from Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes*, drawn from performances which Philippe Harreweghe conducted recently in France. (The leader of the orchestra, as on the previous record, is François Fernandez.) This took me back to an old Collegium Aureum recording of practically the same music, and the comparison served to highlight this French performance's greater delicacy of attack and cleanliness of phrasing. The final Chaconne accumulates enormous power, and the variety of continuo instruments is especially welcome.

The harpsichord music of François Couperin has long stood as a pinnacle of the French baroque achievement, but a huge new five-disc set puts firmly beside that the harpsichord music of the composer's uncle, Louis Couperin. He was organist of the church of Saint-Gervais in Paris, and taught the viol at court. His harpsichord music consists of 132 surviving pieces, found in one main manuscript in Paris and dotted through many other collections.

Few of these sources indicate any order for the music, so Davitt Moroney (who has edited all this music himself) compiled his own from the pieces - some long like the 16-movement Suite in D Minor, and some much shorter, like the four-movement A Minor Suite. The latter is mysteriously marked "Oldham", because it apparently comes from a manuscript owned by Oldham, mainly containing organ music, which has yet to be published.

The diversity and richness of this music is astonishing, and Moroney, by the command of the resources of three original harpsichords of the time, brings out all the latent emotion in them. Most striking of all are the unmeasured Preludes, written down simply as a string of notes but here woven into powerfully directed improvisations. The final Chaconnes, as sumptuous as those in Rameau's operas, are sturdily done with just the right resonance and sense of held-back strength in all an ideal marriage of musicology and performance: a major achievement, worthy to stand beside Kenneth Gilbert's historic complete recording of François Couperin's harpsichord music.

Nicholas Kenyon

Sure stroke of a past master

It was at the start of the 1970s that Riccardo Muti announced himself as an international opera conductor at the Salzburg Festival. The work was Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. The cast was not much good, indeed it was pathetic by Salzburg standards. But Muti had arrived and his presence made a visit to the performance worthwhile.

Not surprisingly none of those singers is used in his first recording of the work, but the Muti stamp is unmistakable. Individual instruments are picked out of the Philharmonia, just as they were from the Covent Garden Orchestra when he was doing Bellini's *Capuleti*: horns, cellos and the plangent cornet before Ernesto's *cavatina*. There is spring in the playing, not just the first warmth of the year for the serenade, "Com'è gentil, la notte a mezzo aprile", but a freshness and lightness of touch throughout.

And Muti himself: the main reason for buying the set is Sesto Bruscantini in the title role. He is one of the last representatives of the generation of *opera buffa* singers nurtured and encouraged by Vittorio Gui, and his Pasquale is mastery in characterization and delivery, right down to the slight tremolo in the voice, suggesting that so old a man is most unwise to take on a young wife.

Not that Mirella Freni's Norina sounds all that young.

Donizetti: *Don Pasquale* Freni/Winner/Nucci/Bruscantini. Philharmonia/Muti. HMV SLS 1434363 (two records), cassette SLS 1434365. Mozart: *Die Zauberflöte* Mathis/Ortiz/Araiza/Hornik/Van Dam. Deutsche Grammophon 410 967-2 (three Compact Discs).

The dark timbre that now shades the voice suggests that this Norina is slightly ashamed at the deceit she plays on Pasquale. Gosta Winbergh, heard at Glyndebourne, comes across as a surprisingly Italian and fluent Ernesto - perhaps Muti has been coaching him. Leo Nucci is a rather too sombre Malatesta until Bruscantini gets him going in "Cheti, cheti". But that is a tiny wart on a most desirable issue.



Mirella Freni: A maturer voiced Norina for Don Pasquale

Humour is scarcely the strong point of Karajan's version of *Die Zauberflöte*, and Gottfried Hornik is not exactly the most engaging Papageno on record. But the rest of the cast, starting with Araiza's heroic and princely Tamino, are most impressive and a line up of Tomowa-Sintow, Balissa and Schwarz as the Three Ladies proves that the record was not exactly made on the cheap. On Compact Disc the Berlin Philharmonic under Karajan sounds majestic. But note that Philips's version under Sir Colin Davis, which will almost certainly reveal a very different approach to Mozart, is due in midsummer, including a CD issue.

One of the criticisms made of CD is the lack of playing time given on discs, or some of them at least, in view of their cost. No such charge can be levelled at Deutsche Grammophon's series of Walkman cassettes. I'd rather call them Driveman cassettes, because Mahler's "Resurrection" may be fine for the M4 but it does not seem quite the thing for jogging round the square. That one is played by Kubelik and the Bavarian Radio Orchestra. Also recommended is the Beethoven Fifth and Sixth plus *Egmont* overture with Böhm and the Vienna Philharmonic. With a retail price of a shade under £3 and good quality these are bargain issues.

John Higgins

Rare richness of Bach cello

With a catalogue of recordings that includes Casals, Tortelier, Gendron and Harmoncourt, it seems extraordinary now that, until Casals, not one of Bach's solo cello suites had been played publicly in its entirety. The revelation about the latest addition to the catalogue from Yo Yo Ma is the essential unity of the six individual suites. It makes the entire boxed set unusually compelling.

The effect is rather like walking through a one-man exhibition at a portrait gallery: the distinct character of each suite is so vividly observed, and so well caught in its Prelude, that each image can then go on to inform and animate those before and behind it.

Within an equally rare balance of sophistication and artisan toughness, Yo Yo Ma gathers extraordinary sequential momentum in the first, only to contain it in the even, earthy call them Driveman cassettes, because Mahler's "Resurrection" may be fine for the M4 but it does not seem quite the thing for jogging round the square. That one is played by Kubelik and the Bavarian Radio Orchestra. Also recommended is the Beethoven Fifth and Sixth plus *Egmont* overture with Böhm and the Vienna Philharmonic. With a retail price of a shade under £3 and good quality these are bargain issues.

Time and space wrench me away to Gidon Kremer's Bach - the A and E major concertos and, through the machinery of synchronization, an autotitled Double Concerto. Kremer's playing - fresh, minted, volatile, cleansing - always challenges the ear and perception; but here

Bach: Cello Suites Yo Yo Ma. CBS D3 37887. Bach: Violin Concertos Kremer/Academy of St Martin. Philips 411 108-1, cassette 411 108-4. Grieg: Peer Gynt (excerpts) Ameling/de Waart/SF Symphony and Chorus. Philips 6514 378, cassette 7337 378. Mendelssohn: A Midsummer Night's Dream (complete). Philharmonia/Marriner. Philips 411 106-1, cassette 411 106-4.

it really does sound as if the first challenge was simply how much it was possible to fit on the disc.

The extremely fast tempos, or rather the fact that they feel extremely fast, and an overobtrusive harpsichord make these factious, rather than invigorating performances.

Another, and more valuable,



Yo Yo Ma: Sophistication and artisan toughness

release from Philips is the only generally available recording to use the original Norwegian in excerpts from Grieg's incidental music for *Peer Gynt*. As Ely Ameling's strange and radiant "Solveig's Song" and Lullaby show, the vowel assonance and inflection count for a lot in the musical line - far more, indeed, than literal verbal comprehension.

What is more, the extracts come in the right dramatic order and, best of all, are captured in their essential miniaturism. De Waart finds in finely balanced tempos and textures, the intimacy of Grieg's own response to Ibsen.

The Fuseli painting on the sleeve of the new *Midsummer Night's Dream* recording from Marriner and the Philharmonia reminds us that, as with Grieg, it is Mendelssohn's sensibility and that of his century that is at issue. Here Marriner makes it abundantly clear that there is no trace of Fuseli's erotic world of faery in Mendelssohn: in fact, this is one of the most chastely and rigorously musical readings on the market. The sweet-voiced serenade sounds almost like eighteenth-century *Tafelmusik*: the "Spotted Snakes" chorus turns the Ambrosian Singers and Arleen Auger into a straight-faced girls' choir; and the Nocturne and Ann Murray's closing solo are studies in stern perfectionism.

Hilary Finch

IN THE GARDEN

Spring has a fling in the rock garden

The best time to see a rock garden is in the spring when there is much growth and many of the plants are flowering. People who live near London should visit those at Wisley and Kew Gardens, and there is another beautiful example created by the Alpine Society at the International Garden Festival at Liverpool, which opens on Wednesday. Rock plants will also feature in many of the festival's other exhibits.

As nearly all alpine or rock plants are grown in pots, planting can be done at any time during the spring. It should be completed before the end of May; summer planting is not a good idea because watering can be difficult - that is the main reason for failures.

Good preparation is essential. You must first do some homework to discover what the right conditions are for each plant. Does it need soil which is dry or moist, acid or alkaline? And what is the ideal site? Rock plants are quite small, so it should not be difficult to find pockets of soil to suit each

individual species: some, for example, do better in poor soil. Most alpine like to be in full sun, some do best in open positions on the north face of a hill, and so on.

Many popular plants, such as aubretia and arabis, are found in all sorts of gardens, not just rock gardens; such plant types have few equals in providing large splashes of colour. Many of those mentioned below will be ideal for sink or trough gardens.

Any garden should have some plants which are deliberately situated in places where they stand out. In the rock garden shrubs do this. *Convallaria Chione* has silver foliage and white, funnel-shaped flowers; it is tender, likes a well-drained site and grows to about 3ft tall. *Potentilla fruticosa* Tangerine, which prefers a little shade is also about 3ft high and will flower through the summer. Rhododendrons are excellent: try *x Blue Tit*. Alternatives are *R. leucaspis* which has creamy white flowers, *R. racemosum*

with its smaller leaves and pink flowers, and *R. pamakoense* which has mauve flowers. *Juniperus communis compressa* forms dark green columns about 18in tall. *Thuja plicata Rogersii* has tips of yellow to set off the green foliage.

The choice of rock plants is enormous. *Alchemilla saxatile citrinum* is a ground coverer with yellow flowers, which should be used to balance the blocks of aubretia and arabis. Campanulas come in many forms; I particularly like *carpatia* Jewel because of the size of the blue bell-shaped flowers. *C. portenschlagiana* is a good creeper but it may be invasive. Gentians are great favourites which give class to the rock garden; they also come in many forms. *G. sino-ornata* has blue flowers, while the form *alba*, as its name implies, is white. *G. acutis* is worth a place and it needs a little room to establish itself. Geraniums are more vigorous but they can be magnificent in flower.

Helianthemums, often known as rock roses, trail or cover

ground and are a mass of colour when in flower. *H. Jubilee* is yellow, *Wistley Pink* lives up to its name, Ben Afflick is orange and Mrs Earle is red. They should be planted in full sun. *Levisia* also add a touch of class to the site because they look so regal in flower.

Sedums and sempervivums are two other large families which deserve attention. Sedums are inclined to be trailers, while most sempervivums are rosette-forming. Plants which make a show for most of the year include *Sedum kamtschaticum variegatum*, *S. sieboldii variegatum*, *S. spathulifolium purpureum* and *S. sibiricum*.

Sempervivums, or house leeks, are attractive garden plants as well as being good on the rock garden. *S. arachnoides* has cobwebs across it, *S. tectorum* Commander Hay, has red rosettes. *S. x Funkii* has green-tipped purple rosettes and *S. octopodopetalum* is green with maroon tips.

Ashley Stephenson



Bulbs of beauty

Tulips are at their best in the first two weeks in May, and it is an ideal time to look around to see what varieties you may like to add to your display next year. The best places in this country to see masses of bulbs at their peak is Spalding's Gardens at Spalding, Lincolnshire, the showpiece of the British Bulb Growers Association. Unhappily there are not as many bulb fields as there used to be, but Spalding's is a riot of colour at the moment and it is easy to spend a whole day there. The garden is open daily until Sept 30, 10am-6pm.

Nearly all public parks departments also have extensive bulb displays and there is a greater tendency today to label varieties so that you can see at a glance the names of the ones you may like to grow yourself. Don't buy the same old varieties year after year - mark down the names for ordering later. A highlight of the Lincolnshire bulb season, the Spalding Flower Festival, is being staged next Saturday (May 5). You will need to be in position before 1.30pm for a good view of the procession, which this year has a "heritage" theme and will feature 20 floats and 10 marching bands.

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PREVIEW Theatre

An affectionate mockery, sixteen years on

Paul Eddington has happy memories of the time he played alongside Sir John Gielgud in the first production of Alan Bennett's play *Forty Years On* in 1968. But now he is having to suppress some of them.

The reason is that he is appearing in a revival of the play which opens at the Chichester Festival Theatre on Wednesday, in the original production he played assistant master to Gielgud's headmaster, but now he has taken on the Gielgud role and he is anxious not to give a carbon-copy performance.

"Sir John is an actor I admire above all others and it is extremely difficult to follow in his footsteps", he says. "I am conscious of the desire to try to imitate him. Month after month I stood by his side on stage, and I can still hear his every cadence in my mind."

For Patrick Garland, the director, the new production also evokes nostalgic reminders. He worked with Bennett and Eddington on the play's first West End staging and has chosen to direct it again for his final season as Chichester's artistic director.

Forty Years On is an affectionate mockery of England's social life in the first half of the twentieth century. It is set in a boys' public school on the South Downs, during the headmaster's last day in office. The occasion is marked by a school play, and the boys and masters perform sketches, making fun of some of the literary and political figures of the day - Bertrand Russell, Osbert Sitwell, T. E.

Lawrence, Virginia Woolf and Neville Chamberlain, among others.

"We haven't altered the play at all, but it has inevitably changed its emphasis slightly, because of different attitudes now", Eddington says. "A great deal of the play is taken up with the trauma of the First World War, and the emotional and social revolution that took place at that time."

"When the original production opened in 1968, there were still many survivors of the First World War and I was very conscious of the fact that some of them might feel that the play was near the knuckle. With the distance of time, I don't think the pain will be so apparent and the humour and air of nostalgia will be more to the fore."

Schooled for stardom

Among the "unknowns" in the 1968 production, several have since risen to prominence. One of the young actors who played a schoolboy was Anthony Andrews, who leapt to fame recently in *Brideshead Revisited*. Carl Davis, now well known as a composer, played the music master. George Fenton, another of the schoolboys, became a composer and has written the music for *The Jewel in the Crown*. Julia Trevelyan Oman, the designer, has become one of Britain's leading theatrical designers.

The play also marked Alan Bennett's debut as a playwright. After his original success in *Remain the Fringe* in 1961, he remained in the background

while the other "Fringe" members - Peter Cook, Dudley Moore and Jonathan Miller - forged ahead in the theatre and television. He has since written a number of successful plays, including *The Old Country* in 1971 and *An Englishman Abroad*, the award-winning television play about Guy Burgess in Moscow.

"My memory of the reception of *Forty Years On* is that it was not overwhelmingly received by the critics, and it took a week or so to pick up", Bennett says. "They didn't think that you could be funny and serious at the same time. It was a very complex form, a play within a play, with a revolving timescale. When I wrote it, I had no idea that it might be a difficult form, and I certainly would not attempt to write anything so complex now."

Other plays in the Chichester Festival season include *Oh Kay!*, George Gershwin's musical, which opens on May 17, with Jane Carr as Kay. That is followed by Patrick Garland's production of *The Merchant of Venice*, with Sir Alec Guinness as Shylock, opening on July 11. Congreve's *The Way of the World*, starring Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith, opens on August 1.

Forty Years On previews tonight, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, opening at 7pm, Thurs, Fri, May 5 at 7.30pm, matinee May 5 at 2.30pm. In repertory until June 30. Chichester Festival Theatre, Oland Park, Chichester, West Sussex (0243 784437).



Back to school: Playwright Alan Bennett (left) with his new headmaster, Paul Eddington.

Clare Colvin

Out of Town

BATH: Theatre Royal (0225 650565). The Clandestine Marriage by David Garrick and George Colman. Opens Mon at 7.30pm. Until May 5, Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. Anthony Quayle directs and stars in the first production by his new company, Compass, touring before a June opening in London. Joyce Redman, Roy Kinnear co-star in this eighteenth-century play, this week in a very appropriate venue.

BELFAST: Lyric Players (0232 660081). Mrs McGonaghy's Money by Hugh Gurney. Preview Tues at 8pm, opens Wed at 8pm. Until May 26, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

Revival of a comedy first seen in 1931, by a playwright compared with Sean O'Casey. The piece illustrates the facts of Belfast working-class life in the 1920s. Sheila McGibbon leads as Mrs McGonaghy.

BIRMINGHAM: Repertory (021 236 4455). Hamlet, until May 5, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinee Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

Simon Cadell as the Prince with Sylvia Kay as Gertrude, Malcolm Tierney as Claudius, Peter Howell

as Polonius; directed by Peter Farago.

BRISTOL: New Vic (0272 24388). Gulls by Robert Hewett. Opens Mon at 7.15pm. Until May 5, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm. Bristol Express/Leicester Haymarket co-production, on a national tour. Award-winning Australian play about a brain-damaged man and those closest to him. The use of rod puppets is one of the unusual elements of the production.

BROMLEY: Churchills (460 8677/5838). The Boy Friend by Sandy Wilson. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm; matinee Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 3.30pm.

The author directs a major revival of his 1920s pastiche musical, leading to a West End run. Glynn Johns, Paddy O'Neill, Derek Waring, Peter Bayliss, Linda May Brewer, Rosemary Ashe, Kelly Hunter.

CAMBRIDGE: Arts (0223 35200). Butley by Simon Gray. Opens Mon at 8pm. Until May 5, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinee Sat at 4.30pm.

Philip Guard directs John Nettles and Jeff Rawle in Gray's study of a university lecturer at a moment of great personal crisis. National tour of an award-winning 1971 play.

EDINBURGH: Traverse (031 226 2633). 1984: Points of Departure. Until May 26, Tues-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 3pm.

In *Descant* by Simon Donald; *Purity* by Chris Hannan; *The Clean Sweep* by Stuart Paterson: three new plays by new writers, presented before being taken to Holland for *Fairground '84*, at the Micky Theatre, Amsterdam, in June.

LEEDS: Playhouse (0532 442111). *Passion Play* by Peter Nichols. Until May 12, Mon and Tues at 8pm, Wed-Sat at 7.30pm.

Award-winning "adult comedy" now in the West End again. Miriam Karlin, Sara Sugarman, Richard Kay, Terence Booth. Directed by Annie Castledine.

LEICESTER: Haymarket (0533 539797). *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. Until May 5, Mon-Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm.

Ray Cooney directs Peter O'Toole, Joyce Carey, Jack Welling, John Thaw, Barbara Murray, Les Bowers and Jackie Smith-Wood (as Eliza) in this major revival of Shaw's comedy, due in London in May.

LEICESTER: Phoenix Arts (0533 554854). *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D. H. Lawrence, adapted by

Keith Miles. Opens Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri at 5.30pm and 8.15pm. Until May 26, Tues-Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri at 5.30pm and 8.15pm (no parts May 18), Sat at 2.30pm and 8.15pm; other matinees May 5, 17 and 23 at 2pm.

Sexually explicit and therefore unsuitable for children. Stage adaptation of the famous novel of love between a gamekeeper and his crippled employer's wife. By the resident company.

MANCHESTER: Royal Exchange (061 833 9633). *Cost on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams. Until May 12, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

Connie Booth, James Maxwell, Libby Morris, Jonathan Hackett, Pam Ferris, in what is thought to be the first major revival of the author's original version of this play. Directed by Gregory Herscov.

MOLD: Theatre Chwyd (0352 55114). *Having a Ball* by Alan Bleasdale. Until May 5, then June 18-23, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

Farical treatment of such moral issues as venereology, alcoholism and nuclear disaster by the author of *The Boys from the Blackstuff*.

PITLOCHRY: Festival Theatre (0796 2690). *On the Razzle* by Tom

Stoppard. Today at 2pm and 8pm, Fri at 8pm. In repertory.

Frazier Hines, Sunny Ormonde, Philip Reader, John Webb, Malcolm McKee, in Stoppard's celebration of farce, directed by Sue Wilson, opening production of the 1994 season here.

Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen. Open Wed at 8pm, Thurs at 8pm. In repertory.

Michelle Newell, Frazier Hines, Philip Reader, Sunny Ormonde, John Webb, Ann Windsor, directed by Sue Wilson.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 256223). *The Merchant of Venice*. Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm. In repertory.

New production, directed by John Caird, with Ian McDiarmid as Shylock, Adam Barkham as Bassanio, Frances Tomelty as Portia.

Henry V. Today at 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

Kenneth Branagh leads in the first new production of this play at Stratford since 1977. Adrian Noble directs a cast including Sebastian Shaw, Harold Innocent, Brian Blessed, Patricia Routledge.

The Other Place (0789 256223). *Romeo and Juliet*. Today, Mon and Thurs at 7.30pm, Tues (press

night) at 7pm. In repertory.

New production (based by the company last winter) with Simon Templeman and Amanda Root in the title roles. John Caird directs. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

Sheila Hancock directs Roger Ascham, Penny Downie, David Whitaker, in a production which was toured last winter.

WINDSOR: Theatre Royal (95 53858). *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Opens Mon at 2.30pm. Until May 26, Mon-Thurs at 2.30pm and 8pm, Fri and Sat at 4.45pm and 8pm.

Bill Kenwright's phenomenally successful touring production of the biblical rock musical which began the Rice/Lloyd Webber partnership.

WYTHENSHAW: Forum (061 437 9673). *Chicago* by Fred Ebb, Bob Fosse, John Kander. Until May 19, Tues-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm and 9pm.

Paul Kerryson directs and choreographs a revival with Maggie Scott, Yvonne Edgeall, Tracie Bennett, Gareth Snook, Paul Ryan, Rod Arthur, Popsi Maycock. Songs include "All That Jazz" and "Razzle Dazzle".

Critics' choice

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SEX Lyric, Hammer Smith (741 2911). Until May 5, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinee Sat at 4pm.

The two-man National Theatre of Brent presents the private lives of (inter alia) Edward VIII, rabbits, Snow White and Michelangelo, with the usual riotous mishaps and the aid of a danseuse for aerial ballet.

THE GREAT CELESTIAL COW Royal Court (730 1745). Final performance today at 4pm and 9pm.

Delightful yet painfully relevant, Joint Stock's study of an Indian woman arriving in Britain to join her husband questions both countries' accepted notions of family life and female roles as well as the collision between immigrants and an uncomprehending Leicester.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Barbican (628 5785/638 8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm. In repertory with *The Comedy of Errors* (Wed-Fri at 7.30pm; see *The Week Ahead*, page 20).

Adrian Noble's distinguished and spectacular production sets Shakespeare's great problem comedy in the sinister world of an eighteenth-century absolute monarchy. With Daniel Massey, David Schofield, Juliet Stevenson and Richard O'Caraghan.

PACK OF LIES Lyric (437 3686). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 3pm.

Hugh Whitmore's powerful study of a desert couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a Kroger-style spy case. Judi Dench and Michael Williams find impressively tragic performances in the most humdrum of surroundings. Cast changes will take place after May 5: Judi Dench will be leaving the production.

POPPY NONGONA Riverside Studios (748 3354). Until May 6, Tues-Sun at 8pm.

This acclaimed show from black South Africa arrives in London at last: a story of a harassed, endlessly wandering family that is both tragic and uplifting.

SAINT JOAN Olivier (928 2252). Today and Thurs at 2pm and 7.15pm, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm.

In repertory with *Guy and Dolls* by Frank Loesser (Fri at 7.15pm) in Ronald Eyre's spectacular production. Shaw's great play fills especially this vast auditorium without ever quite stifling the doubts it always raises. Strong cast, led by Frances de la Tour's gritty, rustic visionary.

SEE HOW THEY RUN Shaftesbury (930 8577). Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 3pm.

Ray Cooney's all-star revival (Maureen Lipman, Derek Nimmo, Christopher Timothy, Michael Denison) of Philip King's glorious wartime farce featuring a village spinster and a stageful of real and spurious vicars.

STRANGE INTERLUDE Duke of York's (836 5122). Mon-Sat at 8pm.

Triumphant, very sensitive revival of Eugene O'Neill's 1927 marathon piece (it lasts for five hours) about a young woman (Glenda Jackson) who loses her fiancé and appraises a contrasted trio of lovers, played by Edward Petherbridge, Brian Cox and James Hazeldine, in search of satisfaction as a wife and mother.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Mermad (236 5568). Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinee Sat at 3pm.

Gripping new revival of Tennessee Williams's masterpiece, interestingly reinterpreted by director Alan Strachan with an over-the-top performance by Sheila Gish in the grueling central role.

VOLPONE The Pit (828 8795/638 8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm. In repertory with *Life's a Dream* by Calderon de la Barca (Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm, Fri at 7pm; see *The Week Ahead*, page 20).

Beautifully deadpan, measured revival of Jonson's satire on greed and gullibility, with Richard Griffiths and Miles Anderson outsmarting outrageously funny and with an over-the-top performance by Sheila Gish in the grueling central role.

Puppets

Puppet Theatre 94 continues at various London venues:

The Little Angel Marionette Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, London N1 (228 1787). Adults £2-£2.25, children £1.50-£2.25.

Players in Mozart and Harlequin with a troupe of 100-year-old marionettes, tomorrow at 3pm; La Citrouille, from France, with *Haslings*, a shadow show inspired by the Bay of Biscay. Mon at 3pm, Tues at 3pm and 8pm; from Sri Lanka, *Senehase*, folk play and traditional marionette dances, Wed at 3pm, Thurs at 3pm and 8pm. All shows suitable for children of seven upwards.

The Place, Dukes Road, off Euston Road, London WC1 (387 0051). Tues at 8pm, Wed, Thurs at 2pm and 8pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm.

The Little Angel's resident company in the Stravinsky-Ramus version of *The Soldier's Tale*, translated by Michael Flanders and Keith Black, about the life of one of the festival's finest productions.

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (278 8916). Today to May 5 at 7.30pm.

matinees today, May 5 at 2.30pm, Thurs at 2pm. Tickets £1.50-£6.

Hungarian State Puppet Theatre, performs *Petrushka*, *The Firebird*, *Classical Symphony* and *The Miraculous Mandarin*.

The Unicorn Theatre for Children, 60 Newmarket Street, London WC2 (836 3334). Today and tomorrow at 2.30pm. £2.10-£3.70.

Huge puppets from Sicily - with falling limbs and "gallons of red paint" in *Orlando Furioso's Great Duel*. Ideal for 7 to 12-year-olds.

tca Theatre, The Mall, London SW1 (839 5547). Today to May 5, Adults £2.75-£3.50, children £1.40.

West German company Theaters presents *Don't Be Afraid of the Animals* using rod and hand figures; very funny, suitable for all ages. Today and tomorrow at 2pm. Also from Czechoslovakia, *Fiskardner*, unadorned dolls and wooden figures, music but no words in a poetic mime. Tues to May 5 at 6pm; Thurs and May 5 at 2pm.

National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (828 2252). Highlight is Barry Smith and Glynn Johns' *Music and Dolls*, inspired by English fairground shows. Thurs at 8pm; tickets £1.50.

Free Puppets and Judy in the Olivier Foyer today at 1.30pm and 6.30pm, May 5 at 6pm.

PREVIEW Galleries

When the latest thing was a linocut

Elderly visitors this week to the new exhibition at the Redfern Gallery, Mayfair, may be forgiven for thinking they have seen it all before. Twenty-five of the exhibits in *British Prints 1914-45* were shown at the same gallery in its first exhibition of linocuts in 1929, when their ink had scarcely dried.

Nowadays, linocutting has rather old-fashioned and childish associations. But to the artists of the 1920s and 1930s, such as Claude Flight, whose "Swing Boats" is one of the 25, it provided "the newest form of art", liberated from tradition and, to a large extent, planning. For the artist had to cut and draw simultaneously, each touch of the instrument being definitive.

The exhibition covers all the printmaking techniques of the period, including woodcutting and lithography, and represents a myriad of styles, from futurist to surreal. The prints are often highly decorative in their bright overlapping colours. Cyril Rosten's linocut of *Galathea* (1930), for example, is executed in delicious reds, more reminiscent of the strawberry patch than the crucifixion.

The British print movement, which included Edward Ardizzone, Vanessa Bell, Roger Fry and Paul Nash - all represented at the exhibition - came to a full-stop at the advent of the Second World War. This was due to the paper shortage - and the rise of photography.

A number of lithographs by Nash and Ardizzone which were published for the Ministry of Information are represented in the exhibition, but they signal the death of the genre, which never recovered its momentum after the war.

"People's interest in collecting these prints only started in the past five years", Gordon Samuel, the gallery's director, says. "Some of them are not really known outside England." For this reason, some of the prints are as modestly priced as £50.



Post-war new wave: Black on cream woodcut entitled *Dock Scene* by Edward Wadsworth, done in about 1918

Critics' choice

ANTHONY CARO Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6075). Until May 28, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun 10am-7pm.

This tribute to one of Britain's leading middle-generation sculptors skips the development section and the welded-steel abstractions which first brought Caro before the public in the 1960s. It begins instead 15 years ago with the works of his maturity. No revelations, but clear evidence of why Caro is where he is today.

MARTIN BLOCH 1883-1953 South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, London SE5 (703 6120). Ends Thurs, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 3-6pm.

One of the very few new discoveries of the past few years who seems to be genuinely important, a major painter unjustly forgotten because he somehow slipped between two cultures, the German in which he started, and the British he gratefully adopted in 1933. The large show of works from all periods of his career is a revelation.

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART 1066-1200 Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (20 3144). Until July 5, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm.

THE PRE-RAPHAELITES Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Until May 28, Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.30pm.

Artistic activity in Norman England produced such stunning illuminated manuscripts as the Winchester Bible; the richly coloured stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral; the gilt Gloucester Candlestick and the finely carved ivory Bury St Edmunds Cross, as well as sculpture to embellish the new churches. The finest surviving works are exhibited, together with an audio-visual programme on the buildings for which they were made.

MAIRET Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (930 4811). Until May 27, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm.

One of the major figures in the British arts and crafts movement during the first half of this century, Ethel Mairet was influential in many areas connected with textiles and weaving, both through her writings and the example of her own work. She was also a famous collector and an important teacher. This show is based on the large collection of garments, lengths of cloth, samples, photographs, diaries and miscellaneous papers she left when she died in 1952.

WILLIAM MORRIS TODAY Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647). Ends tomorrow, Sat and Sun noon-9pm.

An exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Morris, epic poet, story teller, revivalist and utopian socialist, whose influence lives on in his bold and naturalistic designs for wallpaper and fabrics. The exhibition sets Morris's work and ideas in the contexts of both Victorian Britain and the present day and makes use of cartoons, maps, photographs, video and computers.

THE KESSLER BEQUEST Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Ends tomorrow, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm.

When Sir A. F. Kessler died last year at the age of 93, she left the Tate Gallery one of the most

important groups of nineteenth and twentieth-century foreign paintings. It has revealed since the war. Her family were friends and patrons of Dufy, and the bequest includes four major paintings by him; also on show are a fine Degas pastel, two late Renoir oils, a Lautrec of a woman on horseback, and significant works by Picasso, Matisse and Modigliani.

THREE BRITISH MUSEUM SHOWS Paintings and Drawings Gallery, British Museum, London WC1 (636 1555). Ends tomorrow, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm.

Etchings by Rembrandt depicting scenes from the Passion are shown with some of his more unusual etchings of contemporary characters in Amsterdam. Drawings by Claude Lorrain, Carracci and others reflect the influence of landscape on Italian schools of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. And an anonymous private collector has lent a selection of his German drawings.

THE CITY'S PICTURES Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (638 4147). Tues-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun noon-6pm.

A semi-permanent display of paintings and sculptures belonging to the Corporation of London is on show for the rest of the year. Among the 70 or so works are several well-known Pre-Raphaelite paintings.

Photography

SAWUBONA Olivier Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (928 2033). Until May 12, Mon-Sat 11am-10pm.

Black-and-white photographs by Henry Durrill McKenna which intimately explore everyday life in the homelands and black townships of southern Africa. *Sawubona* is Zulu for "How are you?"

OLIVIA PARKER The Photographers' Gallery, 5 and 6 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (240 5511). Until Thurs, Tues-Sat 11am-7pm.

Olivia Parker's sensual treatment of ordinary objects - ripe fruit, feathers, flowers - poised on the edge of degeneration uses a wide range of techniques, including splicing, multiple exposures and large format Polaroid cameras. Also on show, until May 19, is "Seeing People, Seeing Space", contemporary photography from Ontario, Canada.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR Royal Photographic Society, The Octagon, Milson Street, Bath (0225 62841). Until May 5, Mon-Sat 10am-4.45pm.

"Sports Photographer of the Year" is one of a number of events currently at this gallery. Bob Thomas, a Northampton-based freelance, is this year's winner and his colour portfolio of 10 pictures includes split-second shots of Jimmy Connors and Joe Bugner. Bradley Ormerod won the prize for best black-and-white portfolio; with his pictures of skiing stars. Also showing is "Gypsies", more than 150 black-and-white photographs by Tony Buxall following a family of gypsies in the south-east of England.

NICARAGUA Open Eye, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool (051 790 9460). Ends today, 10am-5.30pm.

Susan Medeiros was in Nicaragua in 1978 when the liberation struggle began to attract world attention. Her pictures of the fight, and the ensuing confusion and suffering, are the basis of this exhibition.

NIGHT TRICK The Holgrave, 41 Charles Street, Cardiff (0222 41687). Until May 12, Tues-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-6pm.

Photographs by Winston Link of the Norfolk and Western Railway in America. These well-crafted works of art capture the schoolboy's love of steam trains and provide a slice of the everyday life which grew up around this particular railroad. A delicious view of America during the late-1950s, a period we now seem to regard with increasing nostalgia. Plenty of drama and atmosphere.

VICTORIAN ART WORLD IN PHOTOGRAPHS National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, London WC2 (930 1552). Until June 24, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 2-6pm.

Photographic studios proliferated during the Victorian period and any famous person was likely to be photographed for family and friends or to satisfy the public's curiosity. Those in the art world were no exception. This exhibition concentrates on photographs of Victorian painters, their families, studios and models. A large section on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood includes some rare photographs of Holman Hunt from his own family collection.

ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE Museum of Modern Art, 30 West 57th Street, New York (212 629 7273). Until May 20, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

American cut photographer Robert Mapplethorpe has relentlessly portrayed the world of black male homoeroticism in New York. His style is at times cold, almost dispassionate, and many would find the results offensive. More appealing perhaps are his clearly seen still-life works and many fine "straight" portraits taken over the years. Also on show is Marketa Lustkova's "Oxford Schools Sculpture Project".

BILL BRANDT: LITERARY BRITAIN Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (589 6371). Until May 20, Mon-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm.

The V & A had originally hoped to stage a retrospective of Brandt's work as an eightieth birthday tribute to the master. But Brandt, with acute prescience, thought this unwise in case he "didn't make it": he died last December. This show directs our attention back to the quiet landscapes he published as a book in 1951 with an accompanying text by acknowledged great writers. They represent a romantic style which he was later to abandon. Many of the exhibited prints were made by Brandt himself. Not to be missed.

JULIA MARGARET CAMERON John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton (0703 559122). Ends today, 10am-6pm.

Incredible though it may seem, Julia Margaret Cameron was an amateur given a camera by her daughter in 1839. Through Alfred, Lord Tennyson, a neighbour on the Isle of Wight, she was soon photographing many well-known literary figures of the day: Sir John Herschel, Thomas Carlyle and Holman Hunt are just three among a galaxy of craggy-faced Victorians seen in a romantic pictorialist way.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters; Galleries: John Russell Taylor and Louise Nicholson; Photography: Michael Young; Dance: John Percival.

Dance

NATIONAL BALLET OF CUBA Dominion (830 9562). Tues to May 12, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Thurs, Sat at 2.30pm.

Alicia Alonso, founder, director and veteran prima ballerina assoluta leads the company at its British debut, dancing *La Diva*, a tribute to Maria Callas (Sue Thurs). With it are given Les Sylphides and a Cuban ballet, *Flora*; also, Brian Macdonald's *Prologue for a Tragedy*, except Wed, when Alonso and guest stars Christine Theamer, Carla Bracci and Eva Erdoskovs dance Dolin's *Pas de Quatre* at a gala performance to aid the Spinal Injuries Association. Alonso's production of *Swan Lake* is given Fri - the first of seven showings with seven different casts.

ROYAL BALLET Covent Garden (240 1066). Tonight and Wed at 7.30pm.

Ashley Page makes his debut as Romeo on Wed with Wendy Ellis as Juliet. Tonight's programme includes *La Diva*, *Les Sylphides*, *Midsummer* and MacMillan's *Elite Synchronisms*.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE Buxton, Opera House (0296 710101). Tues, Wed, Thurs at 7.30pm.

Robert de Warren's new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, premiered in Manchester earlier this month, starts a tour with three performances for the Buxton Festival.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET Leeds, Grand (0532 459351). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Newcastle, Royal, Mon to May 5 at 7.30pm; matinee Tues at 2pm and Sat at 2.30pm.

Old favourites, *Giselle* and Ashton's *Les Rendezvous* make up the bill today, Fri and May 6. New production *La Diva* featured in the other programmes. *Petrushka* with *Billy's* Chorus and the ubiquitous *Elite Synchronisms* (Mon, Tues); and *Billy's Metamorphosis* with *Les Sylphides* and *Raymonda Act III* (Wed, Thurs).

COVENT GARDEN The Royal Ballet, Covent Garden (240 1066). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Newcastle, Royal, Mon to May 5 at 7.30pm; matinee Tues at 2pm and Sat at 2.30pm.

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ENGLISH NATION Tonight, Tues and Wed at 7.30pm. The company's new production of *The Sicilian* is a rare opportunity to see about the life of the Sicilian in the nineteenth century. Conducts a cast led

Clair's comic clutter put to the sound of music

Orson Welles once produced a version of Labiche's stage farce *An Italian Straw Hat* under the button-holing title *Horse Eats Hat*. Indeed, the horse does — as will be evident tonight when René Clair's silent film version made in 1927 receives a special screening at the Dominion Theatre, London, under the auspices of the British Film Institute.

But horses and hats are only two of many items that jostle together in this brittle satire about the nineteenth-century French bourgeoisie: the story of Fadinard, a would-be bridegroom, features antique clocks, an ear trumpet, new light shoes, a stray white glove, and all the fussy paraphernalia of middle-class drawing rooms.

Tonight's presentation adds another element to the comic clutter: live musical accompaniment, especially composed by Benedict Mason, and first performed with the film at the Festival Film Festival in October last year.

No original score for Clair's comedy has yet come to light, although Jacques Ibert's prankish suite *Divertissement*, drawn from incidental music for a 1929 stage production, is well known and loved. Mason draws directly on Ibert, while other appropriate sources provide hints and echoes — French operetta, music by Erik Satie and members of Les Six, there is also music from other French films by Clair, Jacques Tati, and even Jean-Luc Godard.

At Tyneside, the film was

presented alone; Londoners have the bonus of Clair's delightful short *Entr'acte*, made in 1924, performed with its original music by Satie. Where *An Italian Straw Hat* offers sophisticated wit, *Entr'acte* drenches spectators in Dadaist irrelevances.

The Parisian avant-garde pepper every scene. Satie and Francis Poulenc (deviseur of the ballet *Relâche*, to which *Entr'acte* formed an appendix) fire a cannon from a theatre roof; Marcel Duchamp and a ballerina play chess. A pince-nez and beard, a funeral procession (with the hearse pulled by a camel) begins in slow motion and eventually speeds down a fairground's scenic railway.

Satie composed his music with mathematical skill and much dry wit, constantly varying a handful of phrases to match the length of Clair's shots. Jesting, he called the results "portmanteau". Poulenc himself thought the whole *Relâche* ballet provided "a lot of kicks in a lot of rears, sacred and otherwise"; with live musical accompaniment, the kicking power of both films should be wonderfully restored.

Geoff Brown

An Italian Straw Hat and *Entr'acte* are showing for one performance tonight at the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (580 9562) at 7.30 pm. Music conducted by Alan Fearon. Tickets at £5 and £7.



Confusion reigns: Two wedding guests caught in a commotion in René Clair's *An Italian Straw Hat*, which gets a rare airing tonight

Critics' choice

AND THE SHIP SAILS ON (15)

Academy One, Oxford Street (437 2581)

All aboard the SS Federico Fellini for a symbolic trip in the summer of 1914, with an assorted company of opera singers, politicians, Serbian peasants and anarchists, and one smelly rhinoceros. Parity brilliant, partly less so, and strained. Freddie Jones heads a populous, British-flavoured cast.

CARMEN (15)

Curzon (430 3737/8)

Carlos Saura's second collaboration with dancer Antonio Gades and his troupe. Rehearsals for a flamenco-style Carmen ballet are interwoven with a weak story of jealous love. Less potent than the magical *Blood Wedding*, but the dancing remains irresistible.

DANIEL TAKES A TRAIN (15)

Gate Notting Hill (221 0220/77 6705)

Director Pal Sandor presents a gripping, multi-layered portrait of Hungary in December 1956, when old allegiances (to family, to country, to the Party) are cruelly tested. Atmospheric photography; resonant performances by Peter Rudolf and Sándor Zsolt as two young men heading towards the Austrian border.

THE DRESSER (PG)

Odeon Haymarket (930 2738)

Odeon Kensington (502 6644)

Classic Chelsea (352 5086)

Ingmar Bergman's Oscar-winning evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional opulence,

beauty and lightness of touch. It was judged the best foreign-language picture.

THE LEOPARD (PG)

Gate Mayfair (83 0781), Ends

Mon, when the cinema closes After 20 years, Luchino Visconti's beleaguered *Leopard* changes its spots and emerges uncut, with Italian dialogue and superior

performance from Linda Loring, Giuseppe di Lampedusa's novel about nineteenth-century Italy in transition; the screen throbs with passionate acting, opulent decor and a fine Brucknerian score by Nino Rota. With Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale, Alain Delon.

LIANNA (18)

Screen on Baker Street (935 2772)

A married woman drifts into a lesbian relationship with her night-school teacher — a situation presented by American writer-director John Sayles with tact, wit and clever use of modest resources. Marvellous last performance from Linda Griffiths, Jane Halloran and Jon DeVries.

LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES (PG)

Chelsea Cinema (351 3742)

Alain Resnais's latest film defies clear categorization: a philosophical musical fantasy, perhaps, built round the themes of imagination, education, and utopian dreams. It similarly defies clear responses: the foggy ideas and crisp visuals variously provoke amazement, delight, irritation, and yawns. With Vittorio Gassman, Ruggero Raimondi, Geraldine Chaplin, Françoise Hardy.

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (15)

Camden Plaza (485 2443)

Ingmar Bergman's Oscar-winning evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional opulence,

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MADE IN LONDON SEASON

Museum of London, London Wall,

London EC2 (500 3899),

Until July 19. Tues and Thurs

at 6.10pm

Not only British people make films in London: Antonioni made *Blow Up*, one of the key 1960s films, revived on Tues. The film on Thurs is far rarer: Peter Brook's lively 1953 version of *The Beggar's Opera*.

THE RIGHT STUFF (15)

Warner West End (430 0791)

Tom Wolfe's novel about America's space pioneers, brought to the screen as a sumptuous, three-hour epic. The style veers between

irreverent comedy and worshipful,

patriotic drama; compulsive

viewing with sharp insights into

space-race ballyhoo. It won a

clutch of Oscars.

RUMBLE FISH (18)

Gate Mayfair (83 0781)

Francis Coppola's latest film defies

all categories: a black and white

fantasy about youthful hopes and

alienation, shot with determined

poetic intent and meshed with a

riveting rhythmic score by Stewart

Copeland (from the rock group The

Dillards). Featured players Matt

Dillon and Mickey Rourke

effortlessly merge into the crazy

fabric of shadows, scudding clouds

and surreal compositions.

SILKWOOD (15)

Odeon Leicester Square

(930 6111)

The disturbing story of nuclear plant employee Karen Silkwood, dubbed by some "the first nuclear martyr" after her death in a mysterious car accident. Mike Nichols, returning to films after eight years, directs with modesty and sobriety; Meryl Streep gets off her high horse and gives enjoyable life to a prickly, lower-class heroine. With Kurt Russell, Cher, Craig T. Nelson.

SWANN IN LOVE (18)

Lumière, St Martin's Lane

(836 0691)

Volker Schlöndorff's film merely ticks off the points of a *Le Comte de Montecristo*, but therein lies its success. The episode of Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but

dubious Odette is conveyed with lucidity, calm, exquisite

photography (Sven Nykvist) and a central performance from Jeremy Irons that expertly captures the

melancholic elegance of Proust's

bohemian Jew. Ornella Muti co-stars; splendid support from Alain Delon as Baron de Charlus.

TENDER MERCIES (PG)

ABC Fulham Road (570 2536)

Classic Oxford Street

(836 0310)

Quietly released in 1983, Bruce Beresford's atmospheric drama returns to London boasting two Oscars. Robert Duvall was voted best actor for his portrayal of a former country-and-western singer coming to terms with himself and his past; the film was also judged to have the best screenplay written directly for the screen.

WHITE DOG (15)

Electric Screen (229 3684)

Cinecitta Pantin Street

(830 0631)

"What you've got there, Julia, is a four-legged time bomb!" says the heroine's boyfriend, eyeing a dog that ferociously attacks babies. Luckily, Samuel Fuller's direction is far less bald than his script (derived from a book by Roman Gary); the film, made in 1967, steadily builds into an extraordinary, elegiac and moving anti-racist drama. With Kristy McNichol, Paul Winfield and Burt Ivers.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advised to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Coming to terms: Robert Duvall

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PREVIEW Music

Concerts

MANCHESTER YOUTH

Tuesday, 7.30pm, Royal Northern

College of Music, 124 Oxford

Road, Manchester (061 273 4504)

Victor Fox conducts the Manchester Youth Orchestra in an uncommonly enterprising concert: Chocquet's *Mar, Bac's Morning*

Song, Liszt's *Héroïque*, Poulenc's *Les Elches* and Wagner's *Rienzi* Overture.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC

Today, 7.30pm, Festival Hall,

South Bank, London SE1 (928

3191, credit cards 928 5544)

Copland's *El Salón Mexico* and

Rodeo; Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm*

Variations and Liszt's *Elvira*,

Ives's *America Variations* and

Bernstein's *West Side Story*

Dances make up a lively

programme by the Royal

Philharmonic Orchestra. Howard

Williams conducts, and Gerald

Robbins is at the piano in the

Gershwin items.

CRAIG SHEPPARD

Tomorrow, 11.30am, Wigmore

Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London

W1 (835 2141, credit cards 930

9232)

Craig Sheppard plays both

and 25, plus a Bach prelude

and Fugue. This is one of the Wigmore

Coffee Mornings at which you get

free refreshment after the recital.

IMOGEN COOPER

Tomorrow, 3pm, Queen Elizabeth

Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928

3191, credit cards 928 5544)

Imogen Cooper begins an

otherwise wholly Austro-German

recital with Janáček's *Marcel* in

the Mist. Then comes Mozart's

Fantasia and Schostakovich's

6th, Schubert's Sonata D 894 and

Schostakovich's *Kleine Klavierstücke*

Op 10.

LEOSALDI ENSEMBLE

Tomorrow, 7pm, St Anne's,

Gresham Street, London EC2

Bach's *Canzona No 87* *Halt in*

Geistliche Jesum Christ and his

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

BELTON HOUSE SALE: Seat of the Brownlow barons since the eighteenth century, Belton House has just been taken over by the National Trust and some of the contents are being auctioned. The 1,023 lots include superb seventeenth and eighteenth-century furniture, fancy dress, a spinning wheel, pictures and porcelain. Christie's at Belton House, near Grantham, Lincolnshire (Belton 2676). On view today 10am-5pm. Sale Mon to Wed at 11am and 2.30pm.

RUGBY UNION: The finals of the English and Welsh club knockout competitions are being played today, each kicking off at 3pm. At Twickenham the contest for the John Player Cup is an all-West Country affair between Bristol, the holders, and Bath, while Cardiff take on Neath at the National Stadium, Cardiff, to decide the Welsh Cup. Television highlights in *Rugby Special*, BBC 2, 8.10-9pm.

FORTY YEARS ON: Alan Bennett's first play revived for the Chichester Festival. See page 16.

AN ITALIAN STRAW HAT: René Clair's classic film comedy with full orchestral accompaniment. See page 17.

Tomorrow

CRICKET: The Sunday afternoon 40-over thrash known as the John Player League starts today at Leicestershire, where Leicestershire, captained by the prospective England skipper, David Gower, take on Derbyshire, who are led by the youngest county captain, Kim Barnett. Play is being covered on *Sunday Grandstand*, BBC 2, from 2pm.

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX: The third race in the series for the 1984 world motor-racing championship is being fought out on the Zolder circuit, where the victor last year, Alain Prost, went on to finish a close second to the champion, Nelson Piquet. Prost has started this season in fine form, winning in Brazil and coming second to Niki Lauda in South Africa. Live coverage in *Sunday Grandstand*, BBC 2, from 2.20pm and highlights on BBC 2, 9.40-10.15pm.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR: The biennial competition for the country's most talented young instrumentalists reaches its final today. Those taking part are Lucy Parham, aged 16, performing Schumann's Piano Concerto; Richard May (16), Haydn Cello Concerto in C; Emma Johnson (17), Russell's Clarinet Concerto; and Naomi Atherton (18), Mozart's Fourth Horn Concerto. The winner gets a trophy, £500 and the chance to take part in the European Young Musician of the Year next month. BBC 1, 7.45-9.45pm.

Monday

AFRICA: After the acclaimed treatment of China in *Heart of the Dragon*, Channel 4 turns to the African continent for a new eight-part series presented by Basil Davidson. Archive film, dramatic reconstructions and the first-hand accounts of African men and women are used to explore the history and culture of an area where some of the great early civilizations had their origins. Channel 4, 9-10pm. Africa is also the subject of annual events over the next nine months at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (03 4535/602 0702).

Tuesday

ESSEX FESTIVAL: See page 11. The festival also includes drama, concerts, and exhibitions.

SPRING PICTURES: The Fine Art Society's spring exhibitions cover a wide range of subjects, nationalities and media. In London a Saks costume design for Cleopatra nudges fans by Richard Doyle, and Mackintosh furniture stands next to a Morris and Company carpet. In Glasgow, paintings of a sunny Cassis and Kelvingrove Park hang above Mackintosh chairs for the Glasgow Willow and Ingram Street tearoom. In Edinburgh, pictures of Naples, Sorrento and Venice by William Leighton Leitch mingle with views of Undisfarnie, Loch Ness, Dunbartonshire and other places. 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 5116); 134 Blythwood Street, Glasgow (041-332 4027); 12 Great King Street, Edinburgh (031-555 0305). All until May 31, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm; Sat, 10am-1pm. Free.

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME: Premiere of a new comedy by Patrick Cargill, who also stars, with Josephine Tewson and Terence Longdon. Roger Cresswell directs a tale of deception and misunderstanding. Thorncliffe Theatre, Leatherhead (0372 377677). Opens at 7.30pm, until May 12, Mon, Tues, Thurs and Sat at 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 8pm; matinees this Wed at 2.30pm, May 5 at 4pm.

Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL: The Queen opens what is claimed to be the biggest horticultural event ever staged in Britain. It is sited on 250 acres beside the river Mersey in Liverpool and has cost £20m. As well as examples of gardening from 30 countries, there are such attractions as a miniature steam railway, a Beatles exhibition and sculptures by Henry Moore, Allen Jones, Michael Winstone and Peter Logan. St Michaels, Liverpool 17 (051-246 8080). Until Oct 14, daily, 10am to dusk. Admission: adults £3.50, children and pensioners £2. Family ticket £9.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: Royal Shakespeare Company production from Stratford, directed by Adrian Noble. Jane Bookier, Paul Greenwood, Peter McEnery, Zoe Wanamaker, Richard O'Connell, Joseph O'Connor. Barbican (025 8795/638 8891). Opens today at 7.30pm, Thurs, Fri at 7.30pm, in repertory.

LIFE'S A DREAM: Another Royal Shakespeare Company transfer from Stratford. John Barton directs the adaptation by Adrian Mitchell and himself of Calderon de la Barca's 1640s play. Miles Anderson, Charles Kay, Barbara Kellerman. The Pit (025 8795/638 8891). Opens at 7.30pm, Thurs at 7.30pm, Press Night Fri at 7pm, in repertory.

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL: Alan Ayckbourn's latest play gets its premiere at the usual theatre. A recently widowed man joins a local light operatic society and begins an affair with a woman member. Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Scarborough (0723 370541). Opens at 7.30pm, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm, in repertory.

ON THE SPOT: Edgar Wallace's 1929 gangster play of life in bootlegging Chicago comes to the West End in the Watford Palace production, adapted and directed by Robert Walker. Simon Callow, Shaun Curry, James Warwick, Sayo Inaba, Eva Lohman, Albery (036 3578). Previews today, Thurs, Fri, May 5, 7, 8, at 8pm (5pm and 8.40pm on May 6); matinee Thurs at 3pm. Opens May 9 at 7.30pm, then Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.40pm; matinees Thurs at 3pm.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: The Wales-England game at Cardiff will be the last such fixture in the British Championship, which is being abolished after this season. Wales, with limited resources but no lack of application, could surprise an England team that is going through a poor patch. There is commentary on the whole match, Radio 2, from 7.30pm and television highlights, BBC 1, 10.20pm.

SIX CENTURIES OF VERSE: Sir John Galsworthy presents and narrates the story of English poetry, from Chaucer to the present day, in a 16-part series compiled by Anthony Thwaite. The first eight programmes, which go up to the Restoration period and Alexander Pope, are being shown this spring; the rest will go out in the autumn. The distinguished group of readers includes Sir John himself, Dame Peggy



'Wish You Were Here': sculptor John Clench's larger-than-life family soak up the sun at Liverpool's International Garden Festival. See Wednesday

Ashcroft, the late Sir Ralph Richardson, Stacy Keach, Lee Remick and Gary Watson. Channel 4, 9-9.30pm.

Thursday

ROSENTHAL: The Rosenthal porcelain company has represented a sort of bridge between studio pottery and mass production. The company's special concern with design has produced many memorable shapes and decorations, reflecting the changing tastes of the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods as well as the Bauhaus and, in postwar days, the Vogue of Pop and Op Art. This centenary show has it all and brings the story up to date with the designs specially commissioned from such as Vasarely, Paolozzi and Moore. Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 (059 6371). Until July 1, Mon-Thurs, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm.

PEINTRES DE L'AMIE: Whitford and Hughes's sixth annual exhibition continues their special line of Symbolist art, but extends it to take in more conventional late-Victorian painters such as William Ernest Reynolds-Stephens and Paul-César Helleu. Belle Epoque society painter and other. It ventures even further into Post-Impressionism with such as the little-known Dutch artist Kasper Niehaus and the Czech Kupka. Whitford and Hughes, 6 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 (030 5577). Until June 8, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

BUILDINGS OF BRITAIN: The Royal Institute of British Architects celebrates its 150th anniversary with a festival aimed to encourage public awareness of buildings and their environment. Highlights include a masque at Hampton Court Palace (May 30). Today three exhibitions open in London: Six Young Architects at the Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square; Animals as Architects at the Natural History Museum; and The Work of Overseas Members of the RIBA at Guildhall Art Gallery. Festival headquarters: RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (580 5533). Until December.

DUCAL SILVER: Superb silver has been sent for sale today by the Duke of Northumberland and the Duke of Leinster. Northumberland's star item is the silver-gilt 'Shield of Achilles', modelled by the great Neo-Classical sculptor John Flaxman around 1818. Leinster has sent his family collection of freedom boxes. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), 11am.

ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS: The first classic of the flat-racing season is being run over one mile at Newmarket, with Joe Mercer, at 49 the oldest jockey on the flat, favourite to record his third win in the event on Mahogany. The race starts at 3.40pm and is being covered live on Channel 4 and Radio 2. In the 2,000 Guineas on May 5, the Irish-trained El Gran Senor is expected to mount a strong challenge to Lear Fan and Rainbow's Quest.

THE GOLD DIGGERS: A mocking, fantasy film by Sally Potter in which Colette Lafont, a lowly computer-puncher in a City bank, explores the secrets and rituals that lie behind the figures she types and encounters Julie Christie, a reluctant all-

purpose heroine. National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (025 3232). Today at 8.15pm and 8.30pm, then in repertory until May 14.

THE MISSION: The Iranian Parviz Sayyad, exiled in the United States, wrote, produced and directed this interesting low-key film about a young man sent to Manhattan to assassinate an enemy of the Khomeini regime. Sayyad also co-stars with Houshang Tardiz and Mary Apple. C&P Academy 3, Oxford Street (437 8819).

OTHELLO: The opening production of the Young Vic 1984 season has in Rudolph Walker the first black actor playing Othello in London for 20 years. David Thacker directs a company also including Brian Firth as Cassio, David Calder as Iago, Kate Fahy as Desdemona. Young Vic (025 8363). Opens today at 7.30pm, until June 16, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm (not May 7 or 28); matinees Wed and Sat at 2pm.

MORNING'S AT SEVEN: Vivian Matalon (who directed it on Broadway) directs Paul Osborn's award-winning comedy of small-town America in 1922. Hollywood actress Teresa Wright is joined by Margaret Tyacke, Faith Brook, Peter Jones, Don Fellows, Alan MacNaughtan. Watford Palace (0925 25671). Opens today at 7.45pm, until May 26, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinees May 19 and 26 at 3pm.

CRISIS FROM THE MAMMAL HOUSE: Described as "an epic, funny, violent play and is not for the faint-hearted", this comedy by Terry Johnson traces the journey from a zoo on the south coast of England to Mauritius and back of an obsessed conservationist, who encounters a psychotherapist and an elephant among others. Roger Fries, Tim Roth, Niall Kari, and David Strathairn, directed by Phil Young. The Royal Court (770 1745). Previews today and Fri at 8pm, opens May 5 at 8pm, until June 2, Mon-Sat at 8pm (not May 7 or 28); matinees Sat (from May 12) at 4pm.

EDWIN: John Mortimer's "poignant comedy" has Sir Alec Guinness as a retired High Court judge who has nursed a long-standing suspicion that his wife (Fenella Asherson) once had an affair with his old friend and neighbour (Paul Rogers). There are surprising revelations as the two men create for a lunch party to welcome the judge's son home from Canada. Channel 4, 9.30-11pm.

Friday

BRIGHTON FESTIVAL: Music and opera from Poland and the cultural heritage of Brighton itself are highlights of the 17-day festival, directed for the first time by Gavin Henderson. Visitors from Poland include the Cracow Orchestra and the Warsaw Chamber Opera; Ballet Rambert is performing the world premiere of a work by Richard Alston; and Norman del Mar conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in *The Dream of Gerontius* by Elgar. Brighton associations are explored in the work of Graham Greene, Frank Bridge and Sir Roland Penrose. Festival Office: Marlborough House, London W1 (493 8080). Brighton (0273 682127). Until May 20.

CHINESE DELIGHTS: Chinese furniture can be as simple and sensibly proportioned as the best Queen Anne or George I pieces. There are fine examples in today's sale, together with violently ornate pieces to appeal to the opposite taste. Also included are delightful paintings of flowers and birds on silk scrolls, still little-collected and cheerfully of quality. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), 10am and 2.30pm.

THE DEAD ZONE: Film of Stephen King's horror novel about a teacher who emerges from a five-year coma with a gift of second sight. Christopher Walken stars with Brooke Adams and Martin Sheen; directed in Toronto by David Cronenberg, whose earlier films (*Parasite*, *Scanners*, *Videodrome*) have earned him the nickname "Canada's Captain Blood". Cert 18. ABC Bayswater (229 4149); ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (036 8961); Classic Haymarket (039 1527); Classic Oxford Street (636 0310).

Week following

MAY 5: Rugby League Challenge Cup final, Widnes v Wigan, Wembley; Rugby Union, Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham.

Collecting

No soft touch, but a mint of mischief



Not what she seems: Victoria as Una, made in Beirut

An overweight antique dealer, asked how he knew that the chairs he was buying were genuinely old, replied that the test was to sit on them; if they broke, they were old. For coins, alas, it is not always so simple, though dealers can acquire a "nose" for forgeries.

A dealer who recently spotted a false medieval gold coin explained: "It feels too thick, the surface is too hard and there is no 'give' in the coin when I squeeze it". Laboratory analysis confirmed his view. In order to make up the correct weight of an original, but using less pure gold, the forger had made it thicker. And because the gold was less pure the coin was harder to the touch.

Today there is considerable trade in bullion coins - coins traded only for their metal content, with no pretence of any collectors' premium, but collectors of gold have to be as wary as the specialist coin collector. Rush to your nest-egg of gold sovereigns and see if any are dated 1926. The Royal Mint in London never struck any.

There are genuine 1926 sovereigns, but they were struck at the branch mints in South Africa, and in Australia at Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. All those coins are most clearly marked on the reverse, on the ground-line beneath St George and the dragon, with the letters SA, S, M or P respectively.

If your sovereign has no such letter, the chances are that it was struck in Milan by José Bertha Zdravko, who, in the years just after the war, supplied a hungry market with his coins rather than the real thing. The premium paid for sovereigns, as against the gold he put into them, gave him a fat profit on each coin sold.

Owners of these coins, however, can relax a little, for the Milan coins actually have more gold in them than is in the genuine article.

More recently, skilful forgeries were made to order in Beirut, by a form of casting under pressure. The political turmoil in the Lebanon finally seems to have closed down the "mint". Many of the coins found their way to the Greater Manchester area and to London for sale to an unsuspecting market.

One offender was found with more than 80 specimens of the 1887 Jubilee £5 piece of Queen Victoria. Taken individually the coins would have fooled anyone, but there in the group was the original genuine "master" coin from which all the others were made, and that was to be his downfall.

Another forgery from Beirut was the famous first £5 piece of Queen Victoria, dated 1839 and depicting her as Una with the lion. At that time, in the mid-1970s, the forgers were convert-

ing gold worth £150 into a £5,000 collector's coin - a profitable venture indeed.

A forger from another, and more romantic era, was Karl Wilhelm Becker, who is known to have produced dies for over 300 false coin types, mostly purporting to be of the world of ancient Greece and Rome. It was at the turn of the nineteenth century, and a story tells how he would give his coins the appearance of 2,000 years of wear and tear by "kicking his old gentlemen for a drive". The coins were placed in a box filled with iron filings which was then slung under his carriage. By all accounts Becker seems to have been a most likable gentleman, but his forgeries still cause problems.

In no field of collecting, in fact, are forgeries more prevalent than in that of coins. But a new and completely independent bureau has recently been set up, devoted to their suppression - the International

Numismatic Anti-Forgery Bureau (INAFB). It is directed by Mr E. G. V. Newman, formerly Chemist and Assayer (chief metallurgist) at the Royal Mint.

The INAFB maintains international support, as well as that of the main London dealers, the British Numismatic Trade Association and the department of coins and medals at the British Museum.

Daniel Fearon

Collectors and buyers of bullion coins are always advised to buy from reputable dealers to whom any doubtful coin could always be returned. Collectors suspecting that they might have a forgery or wishing to have a coin authenticated can now send it to the INAFB - but serious inquiries only - or write for a brochure detailing the scale of charges (from £3 to £20, depending on the insured value of the coin sent). The bureau emphasises that it will always give an opinion regarding authenticity - but it does not identify or attribute coins, grade them as to their condition or give any valuation. Contact: The Director, INAFB, PO Box 52, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4JR.

THE TIMES GUERNSEY CARDIGAN

Specially selected for Times readers, this versatile Guernsey cardigan is both hard wearing and attractive. Made in 100% pure new wool, the cardigan incorporates those features of the "guernsey" design that make it immediately identifiable - ribbed sleeve insets and two small slit openings in the hem. To add to the continuity of the design the turtle neck, patch pockets and cardigan all bear the same ribbed pattern, which adds subtle elegance to this distinctive garment.

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THE TIMES

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Journey to silent vales of legend

When Sir Gawain rode to meet his Green Knight for a return match after Camelot, this was the path he took - or so the legend goes.

The bloodthirsty medieval romance appeared increasingly plausible as we rode towards the tree-veiled chasm of Lud's Church, a deep rocky cleft between mossy walls which has been suggested as the site of the Green Chapel. Sir Gawain's goal. Nearby, at Swythamley Park, is the supposed site of a medieval hunting lodge which was the Green Knight's castle.

We were riding in the Peak District, along the old packhorse trails of the Dane and Goyt valleys, close to the point where the three counties of Derbyshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire meet. It is a part of the country that has aroused mixed responses. Sir Gawain thought of it as a most "perilous place", "savage and wild"; to Defoe it was a "howling wilderness". Sir John Betjeman, on the other hand, was struck by "such variety, colour and quality as is found nowhere in England". It depends which part of the Peak you are in. The Dark Peak, mainly north of Edale, characterized by its dark gristly rock and banks of black peat and naked rock, can be sombre and forbidding, the White Peak, where we were and where dry limestone walls divide green meadows and pastureland, has a different atmosphere altogether.

What the Peak District does not have are "peaks" in the usual sense of the word. There are no mini-Everests, and although there is a great deal of wild and rugged moorland over 2,000ft, most of this resembles, as one guide book put it, a "half-used brown loaf stuck on its end and left out in the rain".



Riding high: Along the packhorse trail through the village of Flash, 1,500 ft above sea level

"Peak" district might be a more apt description. In fact the name comes from *peac*, Old English for "hill".

Flash, our starting point for the ride, is a handful of weather-worn cottages huddled round a church, with one village store and pub. At 1,500ft above sea level, it is the highest village in England, and it felt like it. A biting wind was blowing which made my eyes stream, and there were flurries of snow, despite the April sun. The village's other claim to fame is its association with "flash money", the counterfeit money used by gypsies and to which the village

gives its name. Proximity to three counties in which to elude pursuit made Flash a favourite haunt of coiners and highwaymen.

The ponies at Northfield Farm matched the rugged scenery and the climate. These animals, with long woolly hair and shaggy manes (useful to hold on to), are sturdy and tough, and need to be. Liz and David Andrews introduced me to Danny, who was to carry me on my ride across the moors. From the village our route took us through country lanes and moorland tracks, with little sign of civilization apart from a

few isolated farmhouses with their accompanying flocks of geese. It was not long before we reached our first gate. The ride is punctuated by gates, so until you have mastered the skill of reaching down from the saddle on a horse guaranteed to stand still, be prepared for a lot of mounting and dismounting.

After about a mile we reached a dell where two streams (one is the Dane) tumble under a single-arched stone bridge. The valley here is deep, the scenery wild and rocky: the hollow is hemmed by bracken-clad slopes and heather, and a few trees. This is Three Shires Head, the

bridge marking the point where the three counties meet. It is hard to imagine that the amount of horse traffic where these old packhorse routes covered was once so great that this now remote and disused bridge had to be widened. It was near here, in the quarries of the Goyt valley, that Thomas Pickford began his removal business by using his packhorses carrying paving slabs to London to transport other goods on their return journeys.

Farther downstream the Dane gushes into Fannier Pool, the name reminiscent of the bags slung on each side of the packhorses. Once the scene of boisterous cockfights, it is now a secluded glen, beautifully soundless except for the gurgling and gushing water and the calls of birds.

The track descends steeply, then ascends again, high above the valley. "By the time you reach this bit, you've learnt not to fall off," Liz said, as I stared, dizzily, into the sharp drop where the land falls away into the whirling pool below.

Across the valley to our right, we had a clear view of the Peak District's wild wallabies. Having escaped from the Brockhurst family's private zoo during the war, and thriving on a diet of heather, bilberries, grass and scrub, the wallabies have survived and bred.

We paused at the next stream to let the horses drink before making the return journey, which is uphill all the way.

As well as running a riding school and working a hill-farm, with suckler cows and sheep and 60 acres of land, the Andrews offer farm holidays and accommodation in one of the converted stable blocks. It is a good way to round off a day's riding - curling up to the sounds of sheep at your bedroom window and the munching of hay in the stalls below.

Anne Whitehouse

Out and About/Riding

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Anne Whitehouse

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

When caveat emptor no longer applies

We are fortunate in having a Governor of the Bank of England who is willing to make frequent trips to the speaker's rostrum. Apart from the fact that it keeps the rest of us up to date with official thinking, the contrast between Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton's speeches is a valuable guide to the speed at which events in the City are moving.

Last month in Edinburgh, Mr Leigh-Pemberton issued a sweeping call to arms which made few concessions to the doubters. Yesterday, at the British Insurance Brokers' Association's annual conference in Bristol, he launched the second phase with a more circumspect discussion of the issues involved in investor protection.

He made it plain that the caveat emptor approach is no longer tenable. While he is strongly in favour of self-regulation, it must be in the context of "a robust framework."

Mr Leigh-Pemberton declared: "The game, I scarcely need tell you, is the provision through one organization of a comprehensive range of financial services to both the corporate client and the private individual. How in these circumstances can the full-blooded caveat emptor case retain any credibility?"

In passing, he welcomed the recent Stock Exchange discussion document but stressed that it was "essentially consultative" and "an admirable foundation for well-informed debate". This is Bank Code for a defence of the Stock Exchange paper against those critics which accused it of lack of leadership.

ROLAC, the Registry of Life Assurance Commissions, was described by the Governor as "the only orderly solution in sight to the risk of unbridled competition in the payment of ever more generous commissions", a blessing which yesterday's audience must have greeted with mixed feelings. They were made even more uncomfortable later in the day by Professor Lawrence "Jim" Gower's assertion that ROLAC needed statutory backing.

But the most intriguing aspect of the Governor's philosophical journey from Edinburgh to Bristol is the part which did not change. Both speeches are marked by a passage in which Mr Leigh-Pemberton ruminates over the potential problems which await the attempt to regulate two different and possibly conflicting divisions of the same financial conglomerate.

The obvious case concerns a group which owns both a bank and an insurance company. The bank would come under the Bank of England, the insurer would be ruled by the Department of Trade and Industry. Both must maintain adequate capital and solvency ratios. If any of these are in danger of falling below acceptable levels, the instant reaction from the authorities would be to demand a capital injection. But the two regulators' requirements could conflict, as they did on occasion during the secondary banking crisis of a decade ago.

Confusion at Shell

Royal Dutch Shell's hopes of a quick Wall Street success in its \$5.5 billion battle to buy out the 30.5 per cent minority of its enormous US subsidiary, Shell Oil, are beginning to look embarrassingly optimistic. Shell has faced tough questions on the takeover attempt from its shareholders with signs that the Anglo-Dutch parent is unlikely to obtain a vital 90 per cent of the shares by May 9, the first closing date for the tender.

Royal Dutch's \$5.5 a share tender offer.

begin this week in unpropitious circumstances. A group of dissident minority shareholders is fighting the takeover in the US courts.

And in the last two weeks, Royal Dutch has been defeated twice over devious manoeuvres to win over Shell workers who own shares in their employer. Their support is vital. In total they control 9 per cent of Shell stock so it requires only an additional 1 per cent to block Royal Dutch hopes of snaring 90 per cent, forcing through a merger and cancelling the share quote.

First, the Securities and Exchange Commission refused to countenance an \$8 a share premium over the tender price which Royal Dutch offered to employees. Then the SEC blocked a later attempt by Shell Oil - in effect acting as surrogate for its parent - to compensate employees for tax benefits lost by selling shares acquired as part of pension plan arrangements. As a result, only one in sixty of these employee shares has been tendered.

And now, with the battle scarcely moving in Royal Dutch's direction, Shell Oil president, Mr John Bookout, has just had, in the circumstances, the embarrassing task of revealing that the company's first quarter net income soared by 33 per cent.

Mr Bookout rather lamely stated the profits were below Shell's own internal projections but this has not prevented the share price jumping above the \$58 offered. Royal Dutch, which has already raised the price from \$55 to \$58 a share, has said it will not offer more in the next 18 months but Wall Street analysts are betting it may be forced to change its mind or that the price will not, as was expected before the recent round of oil mergers fall markedly lower.

Amid the confusion, which is hardly improving Royal Dutch's image as the world's second biggest company, small shareholders in Shell Oil have to make up their own minds. Shell Oil's board is split between Royal Dutch representatives including London boss Sir Peter Baxendale and outside non-executive directors who concluded that \$75 per share would be a fair price. So the board have to say what they do with their own shares.

Reflecting their concern over possible defeat, Royal Dutch has finally got round to a tactic it had previously disclaimed. It is employing a specialist firm of publicity experts to bombard minority holders with a thousand good reasons why they should sell out.

Sea change for Isle of Man

Can the Isle of Man stop the drift of British-owned ships to those handy but sometimes slightly suspect flags of convenience? The island's authorities - still wrestling with the intractable problems of financial scandals - believe so. They are setting up a shipping register which will give most of the advantages of a flag of convenience but allow ships to sail under the Red Duster.

The new register will mean that shipping companies based on the island will benefit from its low tax rates. They will have to pay only the internationally agreed rates of pay to crews, which are rather lower than those agreed in Britain. But the Manx authorities are keen to point out, safety standards will be the same as those enforced by the mainland. Rust buckets will not be eligible, nor probably will passenger liners.

One Scottish shipping company with half a dozen vessels has already based itself on the island. Ships registered there have the option of sailing either under the red ensign, just like those from mainland Britain, or under an ensign with the three-legged Manx symbol. Marine surveyors are just being appointed. But they will have to carry out their inspections on the high seas because the island has no suitable ports - lending a whole new meaning to the expression "offshore tax haven".

Guarded optimism greets first jobless fall since November

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Unemployment fell this month, the first break in a continuous rise in the underlying rate since last November. Seasonally adjusted, the adult total fell by only 500, to 3,012,300 or 12.6 per cent of the workforce.

But this drop followed four months in which the seasonally-adjusted figure had risen by a total of 74,000, undermining government claims that unemployment had at last levelled off.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, called the April fall a "modest but welcome check to the upward run of figures seen so far this year".

Sir Terence Beckett, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, called it a "welcome spring tonic", but Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, said that "anyone

who sees hope in these figures is clutching at statistical straws". The unadjusted total, including school-leavers, fell as much as 35,000 this month, to 3,107,682, or 13 per cent of the workforce. But this was partly because of the late Easter, which meant that the spring batch of school-leavers will not swell the figures until May.

The number of unemployed school-leavers fell by 8,500 this month, compared with a rise of 22,300 in April, 1983.

However, the unadjusted adult total, which rose in each of the preceding four Aprils, fell by 26,000 this month. (The apparent fall in April, 1983, was simple the result of a change in registration rules for the over-60s).

The figures for vacancies also improved this month, with a rise of 11,000 in the average number available at jobcentres,

| UNEMPLOYMENT | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--|
| | Adults (seasonally adjusted) 000s | % rate | Unadjusted total (inc. school leavers) |
| 1983 | | | |
| April | 3,012.3 | 12.7 | 3,107,682 |
| Nov | 2,988.5 | 12.3 | 3,084,416 |
| Dec | 2,946.1 | 12.3 | 3,079,378 |
| 1984 | | | |
| Jan | 2,976.0 | 12.5 | 3,199,678 |
| Feb | 3,005.1 | 12.6 | 3,186,386 |
| Mar | 3,012.3 | 12.6 | 3,142,775 |
| Apr | 3,012.3 | 12.6 | 3,107,682 |

Source: Department of Employment

to just over 155,000. But this is still well below the level of vacancies recorded last autumn.

It is estimated that 645,000 people were covered by special employment and training.

The Employment Department calculates that these special schemes reduced unemployment by 455,000. Adjusting for these, and adding

back in the 161,000 older men deleted from the register by the 1983 Budget, would bring the unemployment total to close on 3,750,000.

After last autumn's disappointment, when a fall of 10,000 over four months was followed by a much sharper rise in unemployment, government ministers are wary of premature optimism.

But Mr King argued yesterday that "the months ahead will start to show what impact the widespread improvements in the economy will make to the unemployment figures."

He pointed out that the number of jobs in the economy had increased by 200,000 in the nine months to December, but warned of the "scale of the challenge we face in making a real impact on the unemployment level" because the labour force is growing by an estimated 160,000 this year.

Guinness Mahon in link with jobber

By Wayne Littell

Guinness Mahon, the merchant banking subsidiary of the financial services group Guinness, has joined the growing list of banking jobbers

links by announcing the acquisition of a 29.9 per cent stake in White and Cheesman.

White and Cheesman is a medium-sized jobber specializing in overseas stocks, particularly the Far East and Australia, Irish government debt and foreign bonds.

No financial details were disclosed, but White and Cheesman, a private partnership, will be issuing new shares and will become a limited company if the Stock Exchange gives its consent to the deal. Guinness has an option to increase its stake when the rules permit.

The two sides have been in talks for six months, although the two directors concerned

from each company have been friends for 17 years.

Mr Fraser Jennings, a director at Guinness Mahon, felt White and Cheesman needed extra capital to expand its current operations. He said: "I believe that there will always be a future for the medium-sized market maker or specialist."

In New York, the great shake-out of member firms (300 firms disappeared) that followed the restructuring in that exchange from 1975 hit mainly brokerage houses while the jobbers have survived almost intact.

Mr Jennings was keen to play down any active involvement by the bank with the jobbers, other than to say: "they can now deal more actively if the rules do not change as expected and if the rules do change then obviously there will be a large number of opportunities

Ex-directors bid for Halstead

By Jeremy Warner

Two former directors of James Halstead yesterday made an £11.7m takeover bid for the floor coverings and waterproof clothing group claiming that it had been in steady decline since they departed a year ago.

Mr Bryan Morrell and Mr Christopher Shaw left their respective positions as chief executive of James Halstead and managing director of its principle trading offshoot last April to take up the two top posts at British Syphon, a much smaller company which makes soft drink dispensing equipment.

Now they are using British Syphon to make an all shares bid for Halstead. The terms, five British Syphon shares for every four Halstead shares, will, if successful, more than double British Syphon's share capital.

The bid was immediately condemned by Halstead's finance director, Mr Patrick Knight, as "unsolicited, cheeky, unwelcome and completely unacceptable".

He said: "It is a bit of a liberty for Mr Morrell to claim that the company has not been doing too well since he left when most of our recent problems have been caused by the acquisitions that he was responsible for."

US trade deficit hits dollar

By Graham Searjeant

The United States' visible trade deficit reached a record in seasonally adjusted terms last month, just as the current account of Japan's balance of payments recorded its highest surplus. As a result, the dollar switched from early strength before the announcement to

later weakness on foreign exchange markets.

The United States' merchandise trade deficit has notched new peaks every month this year despite the spread of recovery to other developed countries. The March figure of \$10.26 billion compared with \$10.09 billion in February



Prof. Smith: turned down request for board seat

Hyman in talks with Readicut

Mr Joe Hyman, the former textiles tycoon who had built up a 17 per cent stake in Readicut International, has not got the seat on the board he wanted despite a meeting yesterday on neutral ground with Professor Roland Smith, the new chairman.

Earlier this month Mr Hyman made a written request for a place on the board which Professor Smith publicly turned down.

After the meeting yesterday with Professor Smith and Mr Paul Croset, the deputy chairman - no-one else was present - at the Hyde Park Hotel in London, Mr Hyman said the talks were "amicable".

CEGB increases nuclear power

The electricity generating industry has achieved a major psychological victory in efforts to preserve coal stocks by bringing two nuclear stations back into production, and for the first time generating 10 billion units a year from a single nuclear station.

The advanced gas-cooled reactors, at Heysham, Lancashire and Hartlepool, Cleveland, are now contributing limited power to the national grid and the Hinkley Point nuclear complex in Somerset has achieved output levels equal to the major coal stations at Cottam, Drax and Ratcliffe in Yorkshire and Nottingham.

The advanced gas-cooled reactors have had problems with gas circulating systems, but each contributed to the national grid less than 24 hours after safety clearance from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The success of the Hinkley Point nuclear station puts it into the CEGB's "ten billion a year club", along with the large coal-fired stations, although design capacity is 33 per cent less than the coal stations, 1,200 megawatts compared with 2,000.

Top Brazil economist counts rescheduling cost

By John Lawless

Banks face debt backlash

Western bankers were warned yesterday of the risk of a political backlash as the people of developing countries realize the full social cost of repeated debt reschedulings.

Dr Carlos Langoni, Brazil's Central Bank president during the crisis period of debt renegotiations, told a conference at the London School of Economics: "Less developed countries have demonstrated surprising flexibility to absorb the extremely high social costs."

In the case of Brazil, a successful political transition had helped minimize social unrest. "We should not dismiss the dangers, especially when society begins to realize that the adjustment process will take longer and will require sacrifices greater than they would need to be if there were a better understanding of the problems."

Frustrations increase, he says, when populations of developing countries discover that despite social and economic costs "there are no real signs of improvement in the liquidity of the country."

Dr Langoni, who resigned from the Central Bank last year to become professor in his country's leading economic

institution, said Brazil would have to pay \$10.5 billion in interest this year if Libor remains at 10.5 per cent. An increase of just one per cent in Libor would require an extra \$700m to keep on target.

"Unless we change sharply the current strategy to deal with the debt problem, we may very soon see a political overreaction by the LDCs as an inevitable refusal to accept a pattern of adjustment so clearly regressive and which offers no clear way out of the present crisis."

Many bankers, particularly Europeans, were now looking towards a capitalization of interest payments as an alternative, which had the advantage of being a automatic process.

However, there was resistance from certain banks in the world's leading money centres, particularly the US. "They fear that by extending the re-finance concept to cover not only amortizations but also interest payments, the LDCs would lose the impetus to go on with the correction of external imbalances."

He advocated "an extended Paris Club" to deal not only with government debts but private ones, in which private banks, developing countries and

monetary authorities would be fully involved.

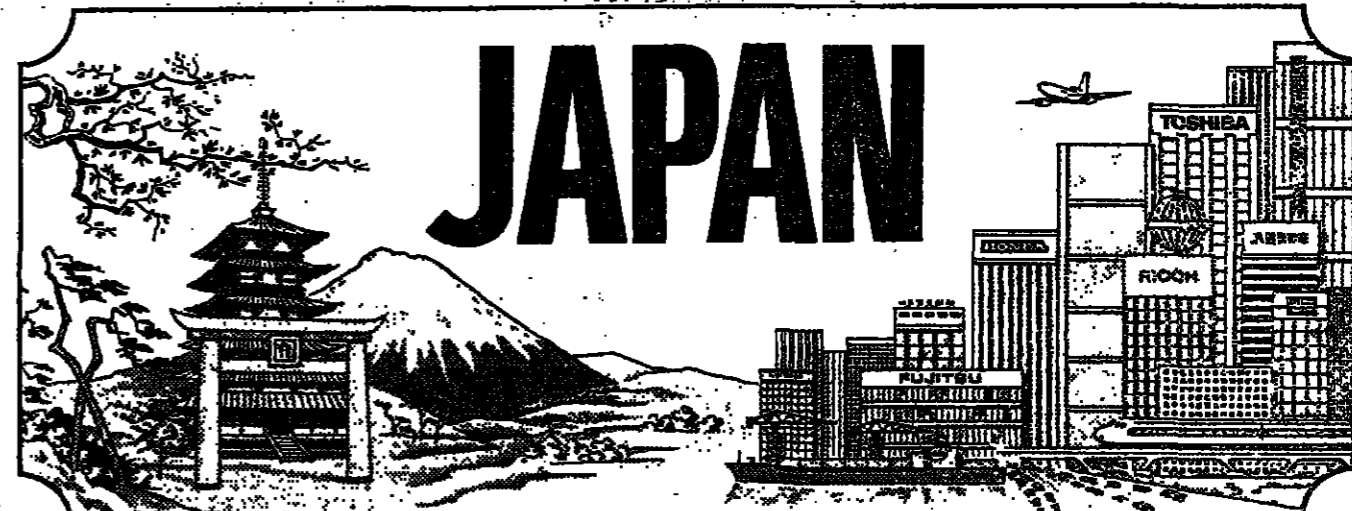
He also stressed the advantages of long-term fixed-interest rates in renegotiations instead of the current short-term ones, to make it realistically easier for countries to service debts. At the moment banks were simply lending more so that countries could keep up with interest payments.

Banks in Polish debt agreement

Warsaw (Reuters) - Western and Polish bankers said yesterday that an agreement to reschedule \$1.9 billion (£1.35 billion) of Polish commercial debt marked a significant step towards restoring Poland's economy to health.

The deal was reached yesterday after two days of talks in Warsaw between Polish officials and representatives of more than 500 Western banks, and earlier meetings in London, Paris and Vienna.

It delays repayment of all Poland's commercial obligations falling due before the end of 1987 and completes the rescheduling of its medium-term debt.



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Kleinwort Benson has an enviable track record of successful investment management in Japan going back many years. In 1970 our resources were strengthened by the opening of a representative office in Tokyo. Private investors in the UK now have the opportunity to invest in Japan through a new unit trust.

Kleinwort Benson Japanese Growth Fund will aim for maximum capital growth through investment solely in Japan.

Japanese performance record Since 1969 we have demonstrated our skill in managing Japanese securities through Kleinwort Benson (Japan) Fund S.A. Over 1983 this 'offshore' fund rose 65% (in sterling terms) - more than double the

rise in the Japanese stock market index. The graph shows the above average performance maintained over the past 10 years.

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With the Japanese Government's Economic Planning Agency consumer confidence index at its highest since 1978, we still think that the Japanese economy will continue its own momentum.

Favourable economic pointers include:

- High personal savings ratio - 20% in 1983.
- High and expanding productivity - up 12.4% in the year to February 1984.
- Increasingly favourable balance of payments - 1983: US\$ 21bn, 1984: US\$ 27bn projected.
- Corporate earnings estimated to rise 25% per annum compound.
- Low inflation rate - down to 2%.

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How to Invest You can invest in this new Fund at the initial fixed offer price of 50p by completing the coupon below and posting it together with your cheque to the Managers.

Investments of £10,000 or more made by 4th May 1984 qualify for a bonus of 1% in additional units. The initial offer closes on Friday 4th May 1984; thereafter units can be bought at the ruling offer price.

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Prices after the close of the initial offer, prices will be calculated daily and both prices and yields are quoted in the Financial Times and other national press.

Annual Income Distribution: 5th May (starting 1985) Gross estimated starting yield 0.5% pa.

Selling your units: units may be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling when we receive your certificate(s) completed for redemption. You will receive a cheque within seven days of our receiving your signed certificate(s).

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☐ tick box for reinvestment of income. I am/We are over 18.

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms) (please print) _____

First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Please enclose your old unit certificate(s) and address change(s) if applicable)

NEWS IN BRIEF

GM profits record

General Motors Corporation said that its \$1.614 billion earned in the first quarter of this year set a record for its first quarterly profits.

The company's net of \$511.4 a share also established a record, surpassing the figures of \$4.39 in the first quarter of 1979.

● **FLIGHT REFUELLING** has announced pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, 1983 of £7.6m, which compare, after adjustments for the acquisition of assets from the Huntleigh Group, with £4.5m for 1982.

Tempus page 22 ● **SUNLIGHT SERVICE GROUP** has announced pre-tax profits for last year which were marginally higher than it forecast in the autumn, when it was fighting off a £31m takeover bid from Brengreen. The profits were £3.55m against a forecast of £3.5m and £2.81m for 1982.

Tempus page 22

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$377.50 pm \$379.25 close \$377.75 - \$378.25 (£269 - 269.50)

New York (latest): \$378.75

Kruggerand (per coin): \$388-390.50 (£377.25 - 378.25)

Scavenging (new): \$88.50 - 89.50 (£63 - 63.75)

*Excludes VAT

agent. 1 000000 4180778A

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Pensions extra

Scottish Mutual has announced two new additional voluntary contribution plans to be added to its pension schemes for those who want to augment both retirement pension and death-in-service benefits.

For the first plan voluntary contributions are invested on a with-profits basis to secure retirement benefits. At retirement, the cash benefits can be used to provide additional cash or pension.

For the second, in addition to investing in a with-profits contract, the employee member can also have the option of having his contributions accumulated at a rate of interest linked to the building societies' mortgage lending rate. The rate of interest at 11 per cent is currently 1/2 per cent above the mortgage rate.

Essex Equitable offer

For investments of £500 or more, per cent Essex Equitable Building Society is offering 7.50 per cent interest net (equal to 10.71 per cent gross) on its three year term shares. If the investment is withdrawn before three years, the rate reverts to that of the ordinary paid up share rate currently 6.50 per cent (9.28 per cent gross). Further information: Essex Equitable Building Society, Telephone: Grays Thurrock 31515.

Imperial Life bond

Imperial Life is introducing a five-year guaranteed income bond yielding 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax, equivalent to 11.785 per cent gross. The minimum investment is £1,000 and the net income is payable annually. Inquiries to: The Imperial Life Group of Companies, Tel: 0483 571255.

Society spotlight

A small savings guide launched this week, called Building Society, shows that even after the recent cut in interest rates you can still get a good return from your building society.

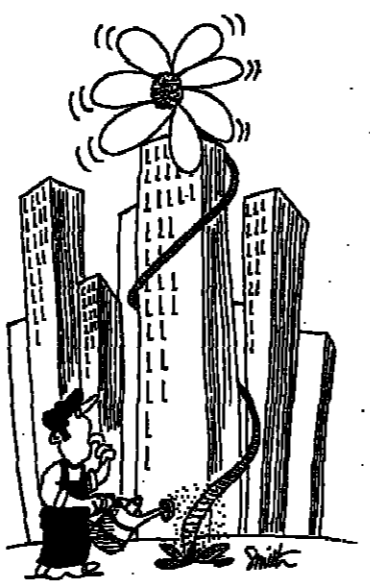
Issue No 1 includes a spotlight on building society cheque accounts, how to choose an account and an investigation into "How safe is your money?" Building Society Choice is available from Research and Information, Hatfield, Herts. SG6 2JH, Suffolk 1P30 0SF. An individual copy costs £5.95; a year's subscription (at least six copies) normally costs £10.95 but the launch offer price is £9.40.

Income bond

R. J. Temple and Company is marketing a four-year guaranteed income bond yielding 8.5 per cent a year net, equivalent to 12.14 per cent gross for a basic rate taxpayer. The bond, exclusive to R. J. Temple, is underwritten by Imperial Life Assurance Company and is available to any British resident between the ages of 18 and 80. The minimum investment is £1,000 and the maximum is £100,000 per person. Further information from: R. J. Temple Investment Services Division: 01-351 0353.

Swinton expands

Swinton Insurance, the North's largest insurance broker, has opened 10 new high street branches bringing their total to 102 offices throughout the North-west, Yorkshire and North Wales. Swinton's chairman says the continued growth is due to working closely with the leading insurance companies to create and market new policies, while strengthening their client advisory and support functions.



Halifax's garden plan

Halifax Building Society is to exhibit at the 1984 Chelsea Flower Show, emphasizing its commitment to brightening up city property. The Halifax supports inner-city regeneration and last year allocated funds for this from a special lending budget of £250m. This year it intends to increase this. At the Show (May 23-25), the Halifax will show how to transform a drab back yard into a living garden which enhances the property and creates a relaxing retreat from city life. A new edition of Making the Most of Your Garden (one of the booklets in the Halifax Lifeline Guide series) will be available at the show.

Improved loans

National Westminster Bank is enhancing and streamlining its Home Improvement Loan Scheme which enables customers to obtain finance at fixed interest rates over periods of up to 10 years. The maximum loan has been increased to £30,000 in line with the limit to which customers can claim tax relief on interest payments. Optional insurance cover is also available to safeguard monthly repayments in the event of sickness or accident; and full repayment in the event of untimely death.

The rate of interest is fixed at the outset enabling customers to budget their repayments. Interest rates: 1-5 years Flat Rate 9 per cent, 6-10 years 10% per cent Flat Rate, which works out at an APR of around 18 to 19 per cent depending on the term.

Cover for consumers

DAS Legal Expenses Insurance is launching a new consumer policy. The policy will pay solicitor's costs and expenses of up to £10,000 incurred in claims against manufacturers or shops relating to the purchase, sale, hire, purchase, repair or service of household goods. It will also cover claims arising from contracts for professional, financial or other services.

It will be sold only on a scheme or group basis, through insurance brokers and normally as an extension to an existing insurance policy. A broker wishing to make this cover available to his clients will normally provide this by an "add-on" to an existing policy. Further details from: DAS Legal Expenses Tel: 0272 290321.

New unit trust

M & G is launching a unit trust, the Japan Smaller Companies Fund. M & G has extensive experience in investment in the Far East and already manages two unit trusts specializing in stocks in this area. The fund's objective is capital growth through investment in new industries and emerging companies in the technology sector.

Minimum investment £500 with an extra 1 per cent allocation of units for investors over £1,500 and existing M & G unit holders. Inquiries to: Investment Manager 01-628 4588.

Fire cost rises

Fires in Great Britain during March cost an estimated £44.3m a significant increase over the same month last year, bringing the total for the first quarter of this year to £115.1m.

The figures produced by the British Insurance Association include both insured and uninsured damage but do not take into account consequential loss or lost production, orders and exports.

C & G guarantee

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society claims to have removed the worry of under-insurance for its borrowers. New borrowers who take advantage of the society's buildings insurance arrangements or the C&G Homecover buildings and contents scheme will now have a guarantee that their buildings insurance will pay the rebuilding cost of their property in full, even if the amount claimed is more than the total sum insured.

Borrowers who have arranged their mortgage since 1979 and have taken advantage of the society's insurance arrangements will also benefit from this guarantee.

House defects aid

The Housing Defects Bill outlines government proposals to help people who bought council homes that were later found to be defective.

Under the Bill, the owner of a house or flat which has been designated by the Secretary of State as defective, who purchased his property from the public sector before the defect of defects were known, will be eligible for financial assistance from his housing authority.

If the defective dwelling is a house, the main form of assistance will be a grant of 90 per cent of the approved cost of the reinstatement of the house, providing that the reinstated house would provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of at least 30 years. Assistance to the owners of flats will be by repurchase.

Mortgage market

Building society lending accounted for 75 per cent of net mortgage advances in 1983, compared with just 58 per cent in 1982. Bank lending for house purchase declined by almost 30 per cent and their market share fell from 35 per cent in 1982 to just under 25 per cent in 1983, according to the latest Building Society News.

The banks became prominent in the mortgage market in 1981, but their lending expanded so rapidly that controls were imposed by most banks in the second half of 1982. In 1983, the banks were probably close to their desired position of obtaining 20 to 25 per cent of total net lending each year.

Another notable feature is that very few new loans are now made by local authorities, with the exception of loans to finance council tenants buying their own homes.

TAX

Computers can help to find rebates

The microcomputer has come to the aid of those who believe that they are paying too much tax. Two software programs have been devised to guide you through the minefield.

Both the Taxcalc pack designed for the BBC Model B Microcomputer and the Sinclair Which? Tax Calculator rely on the expertise of Which? offers its subscribers a guide to checking their tax bill. Many find they have paid too much and are able to claim rebates.

The computer program asks questions about income, expenses and personal expenses and then calculates how much tax the user should have paid in 1984/5. If the computer and the taxpayer do not agree there is an explanatory booklet which compares with the program to explain how the tax system works and how to claim a rebate.

The BBC Taxcalc pack costs £17.25 and the Sinclair Research pack costs £12.95.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEMES

Budget changes reduce attraction

As the new tax year begins, so this year's Business Expansion Schemes are being wheeled out. But since the Chancellor cut the highest marginal tax rate from a maximum of 75 per cent to 60 per cent in the Budget by abolishing the investment income surcharge, these schemes, which offer full tax relief on five-year investments at the investor's highest rate of tax, are slightly less attractive.

Last year about 30 funds were launched - but not all of them attracted enough money to get going, so some had to return investor's money.

The Budget specifically excluded farming as an industry which would qualify for BES tax

reliefs but other unusual activities such as horse breeding, rock groups and private hospitals are still eligible.

Most BESs are funds which spread their investments over five, 10 or 20 enterprises. The Singer & Friedlander 1983/84 fund invested £1.55m in seven small companies ranging from a company manufacturing housings for micro-electric circuits to a chain of petrol stations in the North of England and a replacement window installer expanding to make-up the windows himself.

Singer & Friedlander has already launched a 1984/85 fund which is looking for around £5m. The first fund

received more than 200 proposals from companies looking for funding in return for surrendering a stake in their enterprise. And the investment team still has four "leftovers" which are candidates for this year's scheme.

Mr David Courtman, one of the four-man investment team, is optimistic about this year's fund, and although the fund is open-ended he has reserved the right to close it if too much money rolls in.

"The fund is keen on low-tech enterprises where the team can understand what the business is all about. They like to go and meet the individuals involved. Most small businesses rely on

the enterprise and energy of one or two individuals, so the fund takes out insurance on the key men.

The Baronessmead 1983/4 fund was specifically a high-tech fund which invested £1.55m in nine companies working in computers and micro-electronics.

Baronessmead is also optimistic about the prospects for this year and has launched another fund looking for £4m. "We hope we are offering a portfolio of investments which would stack up even without the tax relief," said Mr Tony Shoelridge of Baronessmead.

Vivien Goldsmith

INVESTOR PROTECTION

Commodity brokers draft compensation blueprint

Commodity investors nursing losses at the hands of unscrupulous commodity brokers can take heart: the formation of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers advances apace.

Now that the London Metal Exchange has agreed to participate in fully representative from all five main exchanges are meeting regularly to thrash out rules, regulations and articles of association for London's first commodity regulatory body, to which unhappy clients of broking houses will have recourse.

Mr Nigel Back, full-time secretary of the AFBF formation committee, says: "It is impossible to put a date on when we can incorporate the association; it all depends on how consultations go and what form Professor Gower's Investor Protection Act takes."

But it does look as if the commodity boys may get their first glimpse of a preliminary blueprint of the articles of association in the next month or so.

What would hold back the launching of the association is how the big five agree to tackle such hotly disputed topics as segregated accounts and how to organize a compensation fund.

On segregated accounts the question is how can clients' accounts be kept separate? (This is where the now defunct Daxford came unstuck). On compensation, it is best for some sort of insurance to be taken out? Or like the Stock Exchange, should there be separate contributions from individual broking firms?

One innovation which will be heartily welcomed by the too-often abused and continually



remused novice in commodity dealing, is some sort of commission structure. Some indication of what percentage of a broker's salary is derived from contract turnover as part of the code of conduct would not go amiss either.

At the moment it is impossible to tell whether commission charged for the individual investor for dealing services rendered is a rip off or not. Floor brokers charge 1/4 to 1/2 per cent of the value of the total contract for a complete buying/selling contract ("round turn") on average. But the commission houses, those dealing at arms length, often charge "whatever they can get away with", as one cynical broker put it.

Rudolf Wolff, long established and pukka commodity dealers, charge for example 1/4 per cent on metals round turn, and 1/2 per cent on lead and zinc. But for the same metals, some brokers have been known to charge as much as 2 per cent. Flat rates are charged for

potatoes (£25 for round turn for a non-exchange member is average).

Would you think that a brokerage fee of 5 per cent of the total contract value of rip-off? This is what LHW Futures charges its clients. Superficially it sounds steep but not outrageous. But bear in mind that because an investor in commodities has put down only a percentage (say 10 or 20 per cent) of the total contract price, what LHW is charging is 30 per cent of your investment if you have opted for a 10 per cent margin, or 25 per cent if a 20 per cent margin. Thus in effect three non-profit making contracts almost wipe out your total capital committed in fees.

An LHW director Mr John Hughes, explains that yes, it is probably the highest commission charged, but LHW is guaranteed "stop-loss". Thus a client will not lose more than he has committed per contract.

Stop-losses can be taken out with any broker, but he can only promise to do his best to "close" (sell) the contract at the stop-loss level. In practice it is quite possible for the commodity price to tumble one day from a level well above the margin and trading to begin next day with the price well below.

When this happens the LHW broker will not call his client for extra funds. LHW takes the loss itself, hence, argues Mr Hughes, the high brokerage fee.

To what extent the high commission is justified, however, we will never know. Significantly, no one else offers a guaranteed stop-loss.

Mr Hughes comments: "We've had clients who have, for example, lost £5,000 and others who've made £50,000. We've been going four years and have between 3,000 and 5,000 clients at any one time which shows that commodities must be worth while even at this commission."

Commodities are not for the small investor, unless he can not only afford to lose his money but treats the loss, if it occurs, like a bet on the horses: a punt and nothing more. Of the brokers we contacted, Sunshine Mining of London said it would not take on a non-discretionary client with less than £15,000. LHW will take as little as £1,000 for a single contract so long as the investor has other equity; Merrill Lynch would not consider less than £50,000, while Rudolf Wolff likes £20,000 but would consider taking on as little as £5,000.

Hilaire Gomer

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RETIREMENT

Union starts campaign on pensions

By Vivien Goldsmith

Nalgo, the local government union, has launched a campaign to highlight the unfair treatment of women in pension schemes. Although it says that getting a common retirement age of 60 for both men and women is one of its aims, it is concentrating on more achievable ends.

The two main thrusts to its argument concern pensions for widowers and pensions for part-time workers. Nalgo's 780,000 membership is 51 per cent women, and the union believes that members would be prepared to pay higher contributions for greater pension benefits. However, it thinks the extra cost of providing spouses' pensions regardless of sex and offering part-time workers the option of joining the pension schemes would be so low that it might be possible to include these benefits under the present contributions pattern.

"Men die seven years before women so providing for surviving male spouses would not go on for long," said Mr Terry Standing. The cost would be around 0.2 per cent of payroll. But Nalgo would like to go further and provide benefits for a surviving cohabitee or adult dependent to take into account homosexual couples, heterosexual couples who live together but are not married and single people who live with an elderly parent.

Nalgo believes that only about 10 per cent of part-time workers would take up the option to be part of the pension scheme. At the moment anyone working less than 30 hours in local government is not eligible to join the pension scheme.

Protecting your secrets from electronic prying eyes

The invasion of personal privacy by automatic data processing covers not only crucial market information - for individual sales or mailing shots - but also and especially employees' personal records. As an employee, however major or minor, your company or firm is likely to have details of your pay, personal and marital status, car, mortgage and other fringe benefits, performance assessment and the rest, neatly recorded, in letters or in code, on its computer. Conversely, if you employ others you are likely to keep an increasing proportion of information out of traditional, manual files and in computerized files or tapes.

Inevitably, this process leads to concern about personal privacy. Hence the European Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data. Nations that do not comply with this convention will be excluded from many international contracts which involve the cross border transmission of personal data. To enable the United Kingdom to comply with the convention and to obtain its contracts, the Government has promoted the Data Protection Bill which is expected to receive the Royal Assent before the summer and to be brought into full effect within the following two years. Everyone concerned with his own money or anyone else's should at least know the basic protection which will soon be provided for the "data subject".

The legislation will impose new obligations on the "data controller" and will not only create the new post of Data Registrar but give access to him and the courts to any data whose subject wishes to know what information others hold about

him on computer and who seeks remedy if a defect in that information may cause him harm.

You are a "data subject" if you are an individual whose personal data is held by some automatic process. The legislation provides protection for living individuals, but neither for the dead nor for non-human legal entities like companies or corporations.

"Data subjects" are people whose personal data is held and processed by "data users", who (in brief) store and process personal information by automatic method. Only automatic processing is covered and not information held by files or other traditional methods. Efforts by opposition parties to extend the scope of the Bill to manually held records have failed.

The convention deals with automatically processed data and the Government is sticking to the requirements of the convention.

If you are a data user, then you must comply with the eight "principles".

● The information contained in the personal data must be obtained and the data processed "fairly and lawfully".

● Personal data must only be held for one or more "specified" and lawful purposes. So the data user must decide in each case the purpose for which the data is to be held. He will have to master that purpose and use it for that purpose only.

● It will be unlawful to use or disclose personal data in any manner incompatible with the purpose or purposes for which it is held.

● Personal data must be "adequate, relevant and not excessive".

Personal data must be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. So data users must examine, and where necessary, update and "purge" personal data.

● Data users must not keep personal data for longer than is necessary for the purpose.

● Data subjects will be entitled "at reasonable intervals and without undue delay or expense" not only to be informed by any data user whether or not he holds personal data of which he is the subject but also to access to that data and where appropriate to have it corrected or erased.

● Finally, both data users and computer bureaux must take "appropriate" security measures against unauthorized access to, or alteration, disclosure or destruction of, personal data and against its accidental loss or destruction.

Suppose, now, that you want to know who holds information about you which may affect your finances - or suppose that you know that data which is personal to you is held by (for instance) an organization or employer. You will soon be able to ask for a print-out of the data and for an explanatory codes.

If it turns out that the data is inaccurate, you updated. And to be changed, show that you if you lose enough some defect in the data, then you will be entitled to sue.

● A special conference dealing with the data protection rules will be held and presided by Mr Ceville Jenner, QC, on May 10, 1984, in London. Details from: V. Adon, L.R.S., 68 Maye, Road, London, NW6, Tel: 328 4751.

Ewan Mitchell

FAMILY MONEY

PROPERTY

Haggling over professional advice

Competition from conveyancing agencies, now being fought off by the legal profession, seems to be working in the homebuyers' favour.

Two years ago we wrote about Miss Francine Jordache who obtained estimates from four solicitors for buying her £23,000 flat. She was amazed to discover wide variations in fees quoted. The best estimate was more than £100 cheaper than the highest and the two solicitors concerned were within a stone's throw of each other in the High Street.

A similar exercise conducted this week reveals that it still pays to shop around, although solicitors seem to be much more aware of what their competitors are charging - and are more willing to negotiate over fees than ever before.

I rang four solicitors in the Fulham area of London, saying I wanted to sell a £50,000 leasehold flat and purchase a similar property for £77,000.

The best quote came from Mrs Amanda Davies of Carr and Mudie at 724 Fulham Road. She started off by saying it might cost about £850 plus VAT; land registry fees and stamp duty (but no other charges). However, she conceded that "we would do it probably for £750 if it were completely straightforward" and seemed quite prepared to trim her costs if it proved possible.

Stamp duty at 1 per cent would add an extra £770 to the bill, and land registry fees of £193 on the purchase brings the total to just under £1,900.

The most expensive was the quote from Mr Roger Wright Morris of Wright Morris & Co,

As the housebuying market moves into top gear, LORNA BOURKE finds that a little telephoning around reveals that homeowners can save themselves substantial sums on the cost of moving house.

81 Crabtree Lane, SW6. He thought the sale and purchase might work out at £300 to £1,000 plus VAT, land registry fees of £193 and office disbursements of about £50.

In between was the estimate from Mr Patrick Woodford of Blok Woodford, 70 Parsons Green Lane. He quoted £325 to sell the £50,000 flat and about £500 for the purchase. This included everything except land registry fees of £193 and VAT. Stamp duty would, of course, be extra.

The interesting point was that the difference between the highest and lowest quote was about £125 - the same as the differential on Miss Jordache's conveyance two years ago, but her overall quote was for a much smaller sum (about £200) so the proportionate difference then was much greater.

It is difficult to know what to conclude from the responses by chartered surveyors. Asked to do a full survey on the £70,000 flat, the three contacted all quoted almost exactly the same price. Either it was pure coincidence, or the chartered surveyors in Fulham are running an unofficial cartel.

Both Vera Berman of William Martin & Partners, 92 Wandsworth Bridge Road, and Mr Abbot Charles of Anley

Melville & Co, 553 Fulham Road, wanted to know how much the property cost before they were prepared to give an estimate which might indicate that they are working on a percentage basis.

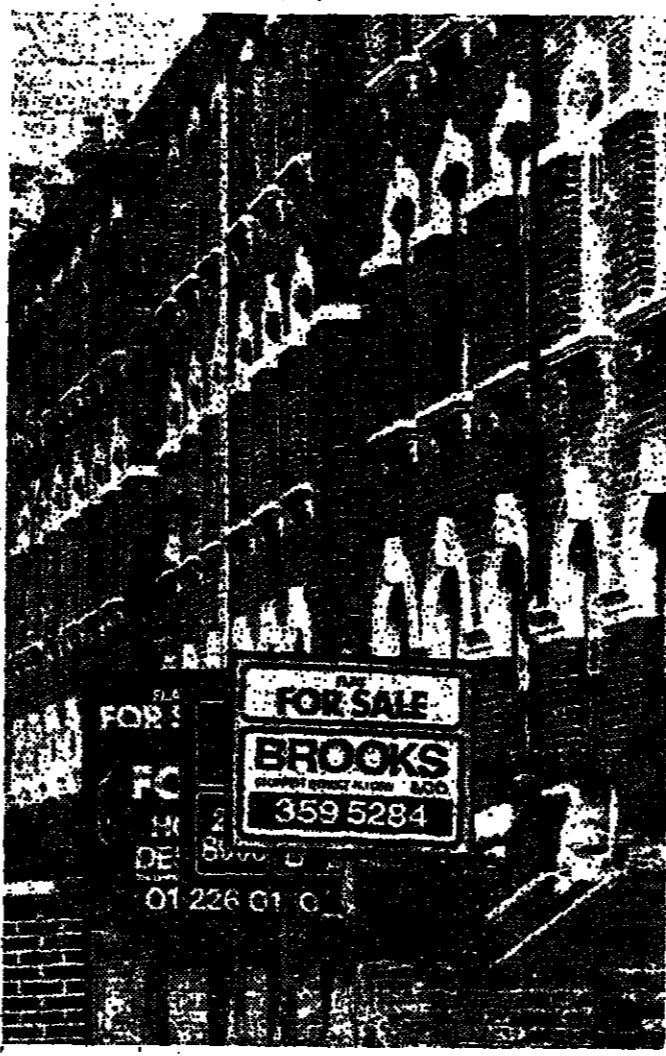
Both quoted a flat fee of £200 plus VAT, but Vera Berman said that this was a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Flatbuyers Report which was a standard format, so this could be the explanation for the similar fees. Both said that a valuation would be included in the price of £200.

Estate agents in the area were much more rigid. All quoted exactly the same terms - 2.5 per cent of purchase price if they were granted a sole agency or 3 per cent if it were a general agency, shared within one or more estate agents. This seems high (it would work out at £1,500 for a general agency to sell the £50,000 flat or £1,150 for the sole agency) but none seemed interested in haggling.

Taking the best possible quotes for the conveyance, structural survey and estate agency fees, the total bill for selling the £50,000 flat and buying another for £77,000 comes out at around £3,400 or 4.4 per cent of the purchase price of the new property.

With the housebuying season now in full swing, the conclusion must be that the advice to shop around still holds good. And with the estate agents' fee being far and away the largest item of expenditure, it is worth considering alternative means of selling your property.

All the estate agents confirmed that demand for property is strong so it might be worth trying direct advertising



The properties may move, but some estate agents won't...

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CALIFORNIAN WINES

Auction with size appeal is a chance for investors

For the fourth successive year St Helena in California's Napa Valley is hosting a wine auction of truly international appeal on June 17, preceded by vertical tastings (one vineyard through several vintages), horizontal tastings, vineyard luncheons and seminars.

Sponsored by the Napa Valley Vintners, this year's sale brings together 79 estates and almost 400 lots of wine. The funds generated benefit two medical centres and a community health clinic.

It is a chance to acquire mature Napa Valley wines, which is difficult in Britain. The oldest will be a 1941 Inglenook Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. Unusual lots include a Louis Marini Special Selection of Cabernet Sauvignon (the main grape incidentally for Cru Classe Medoc) from the 1951, 1955, 1958, 1966, 1968 and 1970 vintages.

The Napa Valley nestles between two ridges of the Napa Mountains, the Mayacamas and the Napa. Lying 50 miles from San Francisco, the Valley's favourable microclimates and soils combine to produce wines

that have achieved world renown since the first estates were planted in the late 1800s.

The auction offers a record number of oversized bottles, which allows greater maturation potential. They include five nebuchadnezzars (20 bottles each), such as 1982 Cabernet Sauvignon from Far Niente, its first since Prohibition).

Rehoboths (six bottles' worth) double magnums, magnums, imperials, (eight bottles), jereboms (six bottles of light wine or four of sparkling) and salmanazars (12 bottles) are also on offer.

It is likely that there will be keen demand for special lines such as Beringer's hand-blown nebuchadnezzar of 1980 Private Reserve Lemmon-Chabot Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, the double magnum 1983 Sauvignon Blanc from Cakebread Cellars, and Domaine Chandon's salmanazar of Napa Valley Brut Special Reserve.

Indeed, vintners donate many rare and cherished wines for the cause of the auction and this attracts the investor. Unlike British wine auctions, this one will follow the practice of the

Burgundian Hospices de Beaune sale by offering wines on a "barrel future" basis. A barrel means 20 dozen bottles, split into lots of one to 10 cases. The purchaser of the first lot from a given barrel has the option to buy the balance of that barrel at the same bid price.

The barrel futures include 1982 Clos du Val Cabernet Sauvignon, 1983 Deer Park Summit Late Chardonnay, 1982 Louis M. Martini Pinot Noir, 1982 Round Hill Zinfandel (a grape unique to California) and 1982 Rutherford Hill Merlot.

The auctioneer is Mr Michael Broadbent, Master of Wine, from Christie's London Wine Department. The bidder's fee is US\$125, (£90), which entitles one to register one guest at \$75.

Auction catalogues, which are included in the price of the bidder's registration, are available by sending US\$30 to the auction coordinator: Miss Shirley Knudsen, Napa Valley Wine Auction, P.O. Box 141, St. Helena, CA 94574, USA.

Conal Gregory

INITIAL OFFER FROM M&G JAPAN SMALLER COMPANIES FUND

Japan has one of the most dynamic and innovative economies in the world with a reputation for outstanding success in advanced technology, electronics and new products. M&G has built up considerable experience in the Japanese market over many years and has developed a close relationship with Japanese institutions through regular visits to Japan and the Far East.

The sole objective of the new M&G Japan Smaller Companies Fund is capital growth through investment in companies with stock market capitalisations of up to 30 billion Yen (£90 million), including a limited proportion of Over-the-Counter stocks. It will cover all aspects of the Japanese economy in an active and adventurous manner, identifying new industries and emerging companies.

Investors must be prepared for wide price fluctuations and should be aware that where the rewards from successful investment are high the risks are high also. The Managers have the power to buy and sell currency to protect the Fund against fluctuations in exchange rates. Yield will not be considered when selecting investments but the initial gross yield is estimated at 0.1%.

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

During the initial offer (closing 11th May), applicants for £1,500 or more, and all existing M&G holders, will receive an extra 1% allocation of units.

Applications will be acknowledged and Certificates will be posted on or before 8th June 1984. Once the initial offer has closed units can be bought or sold on any business day at the price then ruling by writing to or telephoning M&G (Unit Dealing Department), Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-283 5362.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Accumulation units and Income units are both available. Income on Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value. Holders of Accumulation units will receive an annual tax voucher starting in June 1985. Distributions on Income units will be paid net of basic-rate tax on 10th June and 10th December, starting with an interim distribution on 10th December 1984. Prices and yields will appear daily in the FT. Unit holders will receive a registered certificate for their units, issued by the Trustee, and a Managers' Report every six months. Management charges: A preliminary charge of 5% of the value of each unit issued is included in the price and an annual charge of 3% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund will be deducted from the Fund's gross income; under the Trust Deed the Managers have power to increase this to 1% in the future, but they have no present intention of doing so. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. A copy of the Trust Deed may be inspected at the head office of the Trustee

or at M&G's London office. Auditors to the Fund: Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Taxation: The Fund does not pay tax on capital gains. Income is distributed (or retained) net of income tax at the basic rate. The Fund is a wider-range investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961, and is authorised by The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the units to be admitted to the Official List. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

INITIAL OFFER CLOSES 11th MAY

During the initial offer, which will close on 11th May 1984, existing M&G unit-holders will receive an extra 1% allocation of units. This extra allocation is also available to new investors of £1,500 or more. The Managers reserve the right to decline subscriptions at any time and you are recommended to apply as soon as possible, but in any event applications with cheques must reach us by 11th May 1984.

To: M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

Please invest £ in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued; we recommend that you invest in Accumulation units) of The M&G Japan Smaller Companies Fund at 50p each (minimum investment £500). My cheque, payable to M&G Securities Limited, is enclosed. APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE CHEQUES.

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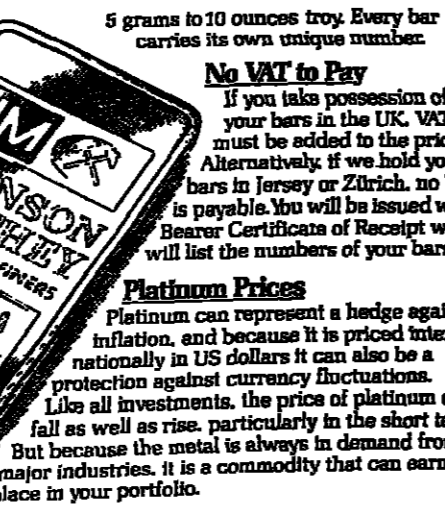
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FAMILY MONEY

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

How a season ticket can cure a financial headache

Now that prescription charges have gone up to £1.60 for each item of medicine you need, it is all the more important to consider ways of improving the health of your wallet as well as your own.

There are two ways in which you can do this; either by being able to get out of paying charges for prescriptions completely, or by buying what are becoming known as "season tickets". These limit the amount that needs to be paid for medicine during the time covered by the ticket.

These "season tickets" are actually set sums of money paid in advance and covering a fixed period. This allows you to have as much medicine prescribed by your doctor as you need without your having to pay any extra. It is most useful if you are unfortunate enough to need a lot of prescriptions.

The tickets, known officially as prepayment certificates, cover two different periods. You can now get four months' medicine for £8.50. If you are likely to need more than five

items of medicine on prescription during this time, you will save money with one of these.

The 12-month ticket is even better value. It now costs £24, and means that if you need more than 15 items of medicine a year, you will save money by making use of it. As more and more people have become aware of it, the "season ticket" scheme has been growing in popularity - not the least because prescription charges have been rising, too.

Recent figures from the Department of Health and Social Security show that last year about 213,000 people had four-month prepayment certificates, and 428,000 had the 12-month certificates - the highest overall total. To make use of the scheme, apply on form FP95 (EC95 in Scotland). These forms can be had from post offices, chemist shops or DHSS offices.

It may come as a surprise to some to learn that in fact about 70 per cent of prescriptions are given out free anyway. If you can manage it, this is the other

way to take advantage of cutting the cost of illness.

Many people get free prescriptions automatically. This includes those getting supplementary benefit or family income supplement, pregnant women, and mothers with children under one year old. People over pension age (60 for women, 65 for men) and children under 16 also get them free.

So, too, do people who have war pensions as long as the prescriptions are for the condition for which the pensions were awarded. And prescriptions go free to people with specified medical conditions, such as colostomy sufferers or those with some types of diabetes or epilepsy.

A full list of these medical conditions, and of those who qualify automatically, is given in a DHSS leaflet *NHS Prescriptions: how to get them free* (number P11). You can get this from post offices or DHSS offices.

If you have a low income,

perhaps because you are unemployed or simply not paid very much, you may also be able to get free prescriptions. For example, a married man with two children earning about £67 a week or less, after paying rent or mortgage, fares to work and insurance premiums could get free prescriptions.

Surprisingly, children who stay at school after turning 16 are to apply in this way, on grounds of low income. It is each child's own income which counts, not that of the parents, and this means that in effect most children can continue to get their prescriptions free. The form on which to claim is also in DHSS leaflet P11.

It is also worth bearing in mind that anyone who qualifies for free prescriptions because of having little or no money gets dental treatment and NHS glasses free (and that is beginning to be worth a lot, too) without having to claim specially.

Ian McDonald

PENSION SCHEMES

Difficult choice for BA employees

When your employer proposes a fundamental and far-reaching change in your pension arrangements, what do you most need? To be bombarded with information about how complicated and difficult the options open to you are - or advice on which option to take?

Most people, one suspects, want the advice, not a mess of detail which may leave them more confused than they were in the first place. British Airways, however, has committed itself to a rather different view with its controversial plan, first unveiled in February, to try to buy out the index-linked pension rights of its employees.

This week saw the start of what is described as "a detailed communications exercise" to explain to the 32,000 employees in BA's pension scheme the options now facing them. The airline has hired, for an undisclosed fee, Hogg Robinson (Benefit Consultants), an offshoot of the insurance group, to run this exercise.

The consultants have already produced a four-page broadsheet outlining the scheme, and are following this up with a series of video shows and group seminars over the next eight weeks at which they are offering to give further information - and industrial consultation if necessary - to any employee who wants it.

Hogg Robinson will have 10 people working on the project, and says it intends to make 75 presentations to employees between now and the end of June, which is the deadline by which BA's employees have to decide whether to stay in the old index-linked pension scheme or switch to the new one without inflation-proofing.

Those who opt for the new scheme with its lower contributions but correspondingly lower benefits are also being offered compensation for their past higher contributions to the index-linked scheme. This takes the form of a cash lump sum (tax-free up to £25,000) or

additional years of service in the new scheme.

This makes for a complicated question, in which individuals have to weigh such factors as what they expect to happen to inflation in future years and the relative attractions of cash now or pension income later. Indeed, the whole burden of Hogg Robinson's presentation, which has previewed for the press this week, is to stress that every individual's case will be different, depending on his age, length of service, family commitments and so on. Generalized advice on what to do is pointless.

The one thing, however, that Hogg Robinson is excluded from doing is advising each individual what to do come June 30.

In one sense this is understandable: British Airways has a vested interest in encouraging as many employees as possible to switch to the new scheme, since its index-linking commitments are seen as a barrier to

the successful flotation of the company on the stock market next year. If Hogg Robinson was being paid by BA to give advice, it would hardly be regarded as impartial.

The question arises, therefore, whether the whole communications exercise is much more than a cosmetic public relations exercise.

BA's employees should clearly think hard before taking the plunge. Whatever advice they take however, experience suggests that many employees - probably too many - will be lured by the prospect of a cash payment and lower contributions to switch to the new scheme. For younger employees particularly, this may be the most sensible course, but it is nonetheless ironic given the envy that index-linked pensions have tended to arouse in the private sector over the last few years.

Jonathan Davis

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5 1/2 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 6 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 8 1/2 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9 1/2 per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1 month 8.0, 3 months 8.25, 6 months 8.5 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

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Britannia plc 8.375 8.704 01 588 2777
Crested Ltd 8.25 8.32 01 489 8634
Opportunity Share
High interest deposit account 8.25 8.3 01 236 3887
S.A.P. call 7.9 8.2 01 236 6846
Schroder Wagg 7.95 8.22 01 382 8226
Teller's Way 8.18 8.49 01 382 8226
Teller's Way 8.33 8.54 01 338 0832
T.A.R.T. day 8.31 8.52 01 236 0832
Tynall 7 day 8.25 0272 732241
Tynall call 8.10 0272 732241
Western Trust 8.4 8.53 01 582 3025
1 month 8.06 8.36 0752 261162

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Accounts 8 1/2 per cent. Interest paid without deduction of tax, monthly notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 - max £250,000. Interest - 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 10 per cent May 3rd - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Retirement issue Certificates purchased in April 1979, £172.44 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max £250,000. 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 10 per cent May 3rd - credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.

2 years Caribury Life 8.8 per cent.
3 years British National 8.25 per cent.
4 years Imperial Life 8.5 per cent.
5 years Premium Life 8.6 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Present 9 1/2 per cent. 3 years Knowsley 10 1/2 per cent. 4 years Knowsley 10 1/2 per cent. 5 years Hammerstein & Pugham 10 1/2 per cent. 6 years Edinburgh 10 1/2 per cent. 8 years Worthing 10 1/2 per cent. 9 years Worthing 10 1/2 per cent. 10 years Worthing 10 1/2 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-834 0486 and after 3pm on 01-830 7401) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 6.25 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent above ordinary share rate. Extra interest accounts 1 to 1.25 per cent above ordinary account. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in industry
Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax. 3 years, 9 1/2 per cent; 4 years, 10 per cent; 5 years 10 1/2 per cent; 6 years, 10 1/2 per cent; 7-10 years 10 1/2 per cent. Further information from 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. Five-year schemes: 6 months 8 1/2 per cent; 1 year, 8 1/2 per cent; 2 years, 9 1/2 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Int. Reserve 0481 26741. seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Starling 7.51 per cent
York 8.49 per cent
York 4.29 per cent
York 4.29 per cent
York 4.29 per cent
York 4.29 per cent

March RPI: 345.1 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

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And although as an individual investor you perhaps don't think you have much clout, as a **MONEYLETTER** subscriber you are part of a club of hundreds - which means you get the VIP treatment when you invest. We're talking about discounts on unit trusts, insurance, special access to mortgages and home improvement loans to name but a few. In the past three months subscribers have received no less than 12 exclusive offers which have saved them literally hundreds of pounds.

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I wish to invest ☐ £ ☐ 25p. I am enclosing my cheque made payable to Fidelity International Management Limited. Fixed price offer closes 4th May 1984 or earlier at the Managers' discretion and thereafter units may be bought at the offer price ruling on receipt of your cheque. Minimum initial investment is £500.

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Not a new Personal Pension Plan, just one of the best - from Clerical Medical

premium of £100 per month gross, could look forward, at age 60, to a tax-free cash sum of £27,044*, plus an annual pension of £3,202*. A retirement bonus could even increase the tax-free cash sum by £11,889* and the annual pension by £3,608*.

A remarkable yield on an actual outlay of less than £17,000!

You can start a plan for as little as £10 a month, and you can reduce or increase your investments in the future.

Or you can invest additional lump sums in a single premium Plan.

Bear in mind also, that you may well be able to use your Plan as an extremely tax-efficient way of repaying a mortgage.

Why Clerical Medical?

Clerical Medical was founded in 1824. We're one of Britain's longest-established, largest and most respected life offices, with a record of investment success that's very hard to beat.

As a mutual office, all our distributable profits go to with-profits policyholders in the form of bonuses.

And, on our regular premium Plan, we are currently offering special terms which could save you as much as £200!

Your insurance adviser knows all about this offer and will be able to give you full details.

Clerical Medical Life Assurance

Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society,
15 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LQ.
Telephone: 01-930 5474.

TRADITIONALLY, GREAT PERFORMERS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BUCKINGHAM PALACE - The late Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, who died on April 26, 1984, will be buried in the Royal Vault in Westminster Abbey on Thursday, May 3, at 11.30am.

IN MEMORIAM

MOUSSEY, Mrs. Mary - Born 1919 - died 1984. A devoted mother and wife. Buried in the family grave at St. Mary's Church, London. Flowers by family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOGETHER, WE CAN BEAT CANCER

We're Britain's largest supporters of cancer research and with one of the lowest expenses to income ratios of any charity, we ensure your legacy, commitment, donation or gift in whatever form will help.

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN (C.R.C.) 25/4/84 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 6AL.

WRITERS

New or Established, we will show your work for 100 Cent. Publications/Agents. No fees. No charges. Send 500 words. We'll tell you if we want it. No. 10, Wokingham, W. Sussex.

NE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON - He delivered him up for us to all, yet shall he not be absent from us, now as at Rangoon 8.30.

BIRTHS

DICKINSON - On April 27th to Caroline (née Firth) and David - a daughter (Emily Firth).

HOLIFORD WHITE - In Bristol on April 25th to Mrs. J. White and Mr. J. White - a son (James J. White).

KINGSTON - On April 26th at Maitland, a son (Christopher J. Kingston).

NEILL - On April 26th at West London Hospital, a son (James J. Neill).

PALMER - On April 26th at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a son (James J. Palmer).

RALPH - On April 26th at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a son (James J. Ralph).

STAVELAND - On April 26th at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a son (James J. Staveland).

TAYLOR - On April 26th at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a son (James J. Taylor).

BIRTHDAYS

BUTLER - Hugh, born and last birthday on your 25th birthday. David and Sally. Happy Birthday. Love Jacqueline.

MARRIAGES

BURBY - On Saturday, April 28th, at St. Mary's Church, London, the marriage of Mr. J. Burby and Mrs. J. Burby.

DEATHS

AGLEN - At St. Mary's Hospital, London, on April 26th, 1984, the late Mrs. J. Aglen, nee J. Aglen, aged 84.

BURBY - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Burby, aged 84.

FLUNKER - On Thursday, 26th April, 1984, the late Mr. J. Flunker, aged 84.

LEWIS - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Lewis, aged 84.

MEKEWILL - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Mekewill, aged 84.

PASK - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Pask, aged 84.

PRATT - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Pratt, aged 84.

SEBASTIAN - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Sebastian, aged 84.

SHREVE - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Shreve, aged 84.

WILLS - On April 26th, 1984, the late Mr. J. Wills, aged 84.

FORSALE

SPRING TOWN - Two houses for sale. One in Spring Town, one in Lower House. Tel. 01-720 0000.

FORSALE

GEORGIAN STYLE - Two houses for sale. One in Georgian Style, one in Lower House. Tel. 01-720 0000.

BIRTH-DATES

CHOOSE YOUR BIRTH-DATES - Order by mail, collect, or collect by post. Tel. 01-720 0000.

DESIGNER BERBER

CARPETING - Resista Carpets. Special offer price. Tel. 01-720 0000.

FACTORY CLEARANCE

Factory Clearance - Special offer price. Tel. 01-720 0000.

WANTED

AMERICAN TEENAGER - Wanted for adoption. Tel. 01-720 0000.

WANTED

WANTED - Grandfather clock. Tel. 01-720 0000.

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